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Hafa Adai!

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Pangelinan is acting PSS commissioner

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yvonne "Boni" R. Pangelinan will be the acting education commissioner of the Public School System after being appointed by the CNMI State Board of Education. Pangelinan is the PSS' commissioner for student support services.

JON PEREZ
Yvonne "Boni" Pangelinan speaks to students in this file photo taken during the Junior ROTC Drill meet early this year. Pangelinan was appointed yesterday as acting Education commissioner.

Pangelinan, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said that her appointment is temporary. She will take over as PSS head after Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan retires at the end of her contract on Aug. 19, 2016.

"I received my appointment today [Monday] and it is up to the

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Saipan runway back to its full operations

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said yesterday that they had already fixed the runway lighting at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that encountered problems starting last Friday. The lights at runway 7/25, the Saipan airport's main landing strip, was discovered not working at full capacity last Friday that caused flight cancellations and delays

CPA acting executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said all the lights at the said runway are up and running af-

See RUNWAY on Page 4

Independents rejoin Republican Party

JON PEREZ
Candidates join some of their supporters and officers of the local Republican Party in posing for a group photo after filing their certificates of candidacy yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Independent legislators Joseph Deleon Guerrero and Antonio Sablan as well as former vice speaker Francisco Dela Cruz will be running under the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association in the upcoming elections.

Deleon Guerrero is the current House vice speaker of the 19th Legislature, Sablan is the chair of the powerful Ways & Means committee, while Dela Cruz was the vice speaker of the 18th Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero is running in Precinct 1 together with Sablan, fellow re-electionists Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) and Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), returning Janet U. Maratita, and Veterans Affairs Office director Gregorio Sablan Jr.

Dela Cruz is one of the four GOP

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Donald Trump is trying to shift from a disastrous stretch of his presidential campaign to one focused on policy and party unity.

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The supervillain romp "Suicide Squad" shrugged off scathing reviews to open with an estimated $135.1 million in North American ticket sales.

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Local

Saipan Tribune correspondent off to UC Berkeley

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Tribune corespondent Thomas Lee Atalig Manglona II will be flying to California today for college.

The Mount Carmel School alumnus will be attending the University of California Berkeley, majoring in Media Studies with a minor in Journalism under the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship is a scholarship program funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The program is aimed at targeting students that are high achieving and funding their whole college education so as to reduce the financial burden.

Manglona became interested in journalism at a young age. Since middle school, the native of Rota has been writing about community events and issues on Rota.

The southermost island of the CNMI chain didn't have a daily newspaper to keep people updated about their surroundings, so Manglona began writing about it in his blog.

"I've always had a passion for storytelling. I remember waking up early in the morning when I was in elementary school to watch Christiane Amanpour on CNN. I wanted to be just like her and use words to change lives and the society at large," said Manglona.

Manglona is one of 11 recipients of GMS that come from the CNMI. It is also worth noting that he is the only recipient from Mount Carmel High School. Aside from the GMS, Manglona also bagged numerous awards

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Lee A. Manglona proudly wears his University of California Berkeley T-shirt in this undated photo.

like English Language Arts, Theology, and Social Science, the Bishop Tomas A. Camacho Christian Service award, Governor's Leadership award, and the President's award for Meritorious Achievement in high school.

Manglona said he was able to balance his studies with his correspence work not only in the *Tribune* but Pacific New Center as well through diligence, hard work, and passion.

"I was able to balance school work with my reporting by creating a daily schedule. I stuck to that schedule and, in the end, I was able to submit my stories and my class assignments. I spent a lot of late nights on my reporting, but because I love it, it did not seem as stressful work for me, it's my passion," he said.

When asked about his choice of college, Manglona responded with, "I committed to attend U.C. Berkeley because of the well-rounded education it provides and its call to students to view their academic journey not as solely vocational but in service to their communities. I wanted to attend a school that encompassed a diverse student body, rigorous course work, and an administration that values student voices on every level."

Manglona also wanted to attend the university that his relatives went to. "My cousin Savana Manglona, godmother Ramona Manglona, uncle John Manglona, and uncle William Torres all graduated from U.C. Berkeley and told me about their life-changing experiences. That only made me want to be a part of the Golden Bear community even more."

Manglona has proven that despite the odds, if you really put your mind and heart into what you do, more opportunities will come your way.

"Share your story, because it matters. Your circumstance or even your peers can discourage you from doing this on any platform, but you should never forget the value of your voice. While it is important to heed advice from others, it is equally critical that you stay true to yourself in pursuing your passion, whatever it may be."

IN LAWSUIT AGAINST GOVT FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT PAYING DPS VENDOR

Camacho rules that company failed to exhaust administrative remedies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has determined that a company that is suing the CNMI government over its alleged failure to pay $36,801 in services and interest for repair, towing, and fuel supply of Department of Public Safety vehicles, has failed to exhaust available administrative procedures regarding disputes with government contract before filing the lawsuit.

In an order granting the government's motion for summary judgment yesterday, Camacho said Success International Corp. failed to exhaust the available administrative remedies because it did not comply with NMI Administrative Code.

Camacho said the law requires that the government contractor plaintiff meet these jurisdictional prerequisites before seeking relief from the trial court.

Accordingly, the judge said, the court does not have jurisdiction to address the merits of Success International's claim for breach of contract or request for remedy of unjust enrichment.

Camacho said because the summary judgment is based on Success International's failure to exhaust the available administrative remedies, as required by law under NMIAC, the court's order does not extend to the merits of Success International's breach of contract claim or request for the remedy of unjust enrichment.

"If dismissal is eventually entered for lack of jurisdiction, as is the legal remedy when it is established that a litigant failed to exhaust his or her administrative remedies, such dismissal shall be without prejudice," Camacho said.

Dismissal without prejudice means, the plaintiff can re-file the case.

With the court's ruling, it is up to Success International to appeal or go back to Procurement & Supply and file complaint pursuant to the rules.

In its lawsuit filed in 2014, Success International, owner of SARS Towing Service and Success Auto Repair Shop, asked the court to hold the government liable to pay the $36,801 in services, together with interest accumulating from Jan. 9, 2013, at a rate of 9 percent per annum.

The lawsuit was filed during the term of then-DPS commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

A lot of the debts regarding repair and other services for DPS vehicles, however, occurred prior to Deleon Guerrero's term as DPS commissioner.

Success International counsel Michael White stated in the complaint that the government is indebted to the company for repair and service of government vehicles, for towing services and for fuel supplied to the vehicles.

White said that on Aug. 20, 2013, Success International sent a demand for payment of the sum to Deleon Guerrero.

White said that, on Aug. 28, 2013, Division of Procurement & Supply director Herman S. Sablan also recommended to Deleon Guerrero that the government should pay Success International.

The lawyer said notwithstanding the foregoing, the government "has failed, refused, and neglected to pay."

The government, through the Office of the Attorney General, then filed a motion for summary judgment.

The government, through OAG's chief solicitor James M. Zarones, alleges that Success International entered into oral contracts regarding its towing services.

Zarones also alleges that Success International entered into agreements with the government without complying with the procurement regulations.

In its attempts to be paid for the alleged contracts, on Aug. 20, 2013, Success International sent a demand for payment to the DPS commissioner.

Just eight days later, Procurement & Supply director Sablan issued a memorandum to the DPS commissioner.

In relevant part, Sablan stated in the memorandum that he believes that the former DPS commissioner acted in good faith when it authorized Success International to provide the needed services to its vehicles without a contract during financial crunch so that DPS may carry out its fiduciary duty to protect properties and the general public.

"For reasons stated therein, I believe it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to ratify the inappropriate procurement and pay the vendor," Sablan said.

The government has refused to pay the sum demanded by Success International.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said in the CNMI, exhaustion of available administrative remedies is a jurisdictional prerequisite to judicial review.

In other words, Camacho said, the law requires the plaintiff to establish that the court has jurisdiction over the dispute by showing that he or she exhausted the available administrative remedies.

Camacho said Success International did not do what the law requires it to do.

Success International, the judge pointed out, did not exhaust all of the available administrative remedies before filing its lawsuit.

Camacho said before filing a complaint, the law requires that the plaintiff exhaust "all intra-agency appeals expressly mandated by statute or by the agency's regulations."

If the plaintiff fails to meet this burden, he said, the court must dismiss the action in its entirety.

Accordingly, Camacho said, when a government contractor plaintiff seeks to sue the government in trial court for breach of contract, the law requires that the government contractor plaintiff meet two requirements.

First, he said, the law requires that the government contractor plaintiff comply with the requirements set out in NMIAC.

Second, Camacho said, the law requires that the government contractor plaintiff receive a written decision from the P&S director.

Camacho said the written decision must provide factual and legal findings pertinent to the dispute.

"Success International did neither," the judge said.

The government argues that Success International failed to exhaust the available administrative remedies because Success International did not comply with the dispute resolution provisions provided under NMIAC.

In response, Success International concedes that it did not strictly follow NMIAC procedures.

Success International did not file a written complaint to the P&S director regarding its breach of contract dispute with the government.

This fact, Camacho said, is conceded by Success International.

Therefore, the judge said, Success International failed to strictly comply with the regal requirements of NMIAC.

The government also argues that Success International failed to exhaust the available administrative remedies because Success International did not receive a written decision from the P&S director, a legal requirement pursuant to NMIAC.

In response, Success International argues that it received a decision from the P&S director, recommending that the government pay the alleged loss, in the form of a memorandum issued from the P&S director, dated Aug. 28, 2013.

The writings contained in the Aug. 28, 2013 memorandum contain directives to the DPS commissioner to verify the outstanding accounts with Success International and for the DPS commissioner to submit to the Office of Procurement & Supply a request for ratification for payment.

This memorandum, Camacho said, does not meet the legal requirements of a decision, as defined pursuant to NMIAC because the P&S director's memorandum does not explain: the nature of the dispute; the specific contract terms in dispute; or what is owed from one party to the other.

Therefore, Camacho said, Success International failed to comply with the legal requirements of NMIAC.

CEC to hold meeting next week to certify candidates

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five members of the Commonwealth Election Commission are going to hold a meeting next week to certify the candidates for the Nov. 8 general election, according to acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez yesterday.

Villagomez disclosed that the meeting will be held at CEC's office at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe next Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 1:30pm.

» 38 so far filed candidacies for 35 seats

CEC currently has five commissioners—three for Saipan and one each for Tinian and Rota. There are four vacant positions—two for Saipan and one each for Tinian and Rota.

As of yesterday at noon, 38 persons filed for their candidacies. There are 35 seats up for grabs in the coming Nov. 8 general election.

Only the Democratic Party has yet to file its nominating petitions and candidacies.

Meanwhile, CEC acting executive director Villagomez urged candidates on Tinian and Rota to file their nominating petitions and candidacies on the islands today, Tuesday, and tomorrow, Wednesday.

Villagomez said that on Tinian, a CEC staff will be entertaining the candidates at

See CEC on Page 4

Torres signs law transferring GHLI to Finance

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law on Friday a bill to transfer the administration of the government's Group Health and Life Insurance program to the Department of Finance.

Torres vetoed an earlier version of the House Bill 19-114, House Bill 19-37, last year.

The governor had cited a Senate amendment that would have essentially allowed retirees to enroll in the program said then that the increase in the number of re-enrollees into GHLI may lead to a potentially significant increase to overall premiums for members of the GHLI programs"

The bill's intent was to "reintroduce the original intent and principle of House bill 19-37," Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the author of the bill, wrote in its findings section.

House Bill 19-144 is now Public Law 19-160.

The new law finds that the Department of Finance can administer the GHLI program more efficiently than the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund and accordingly, transfer the administration of GHLI to Finance.

The bill also mandates that all government agencies participate in the government's group health and life insurance plans in order help control premium costs.

"Increasing the number of participants in the government's group insurance plans will minimize increases in premiums," the bill states. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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Delta grounds flights due to systems problems

AP
In this April 14, 2015, file photo, Delta Air Lines passengers watch as a Delta plane taxis at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta.

LONDON (AP)—Delta Air Lines has grounded flights and predicted widespread cancellations Monday after a power outage hit its computer systems globally, disrupting the travel plans of thousands of passengers.

The Atlanta-based carrier said in a statement that the outage began at around 2:30 a.m. Eastern. Flights which were already en route were operating normally, but many passengers took to Twitter to express frustration with being stuck on the ground.

"We are aware that flight status systems, including airport screens, are incorrectly showing flights on time," the company said in a statement. "We apologize to customers who are affected by this issue, and our teams are working to resolve the problem as quickly as possible."

Confirmation of the troubles first came in an official account that responds to customers via Twitter. The company had said its IT systems were down "everywhere" and "hopefully it won't be much longer."

Several applications were affected, including the company's website.

Among those affected by the situation was Stephen Smith, 32, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He had been stuck on the ground for about three hours at Tokyo's Narita Airport on a flight that was supposed to go to Shanghai.

Smith took solace in the fact the air conditioning on the plane was working and said it seemed everyone on board was fine.

"Waiting game at this point," he tweeted to The Associated Press.

Airline data company Flightaware said there were at least 858 cancellations and 7,359 delays across the global industry on Monday morning. It's unclear how many are related to Delta's problems and whether Delta's groundings are reflected in the numbers.

Computer outages have caused major headaches for airlines and travelers before. Southwest Airlines was forced to cancel more than 2,000 flights across the U.S. last month after technology problems prevented many travelers from checking in or boarding flights.

RUNWAY

From Page 1

ter noon yesterday. "The runway lighting, as of 1:30pm, are all working. Therefore, Notice to Airmen No. A0173/16 will be cancelled."

"With that being said, the runway lights are back to its full operation. We apologize for the inconvenience during the outage and thank you for your patience."

Tenorio said that they immediately asked the help of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. after finding out that the lights at runway 7/25, which was last renovated in 2009 after more than 25 years, has some problems.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco said that the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was finally relieved that the CPA finally fixed the problem. "CPA has informed us that the issue with the lights on the runway has been resolved."

Hong Kong Airlines, the newest carrier that had been offering non-stop flights from Hong Kong to Saipan, were among those affected on what happened to the Saipan airport's main runway. HK Air Saipan Station Airport Services supervisor May Joan Cabrera Boongaling said the inbound flight that was supposed to arrive at 12:30am, landed at 4pm yesterday.

"In a way we're also affected. It's a good thing that they immediately issued an advisory so we're able to inform our headquarters in Hong Kong. We immediately relayed the problem to the head office and they immediately changed the flight schedule," Boongalin told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We're glad, not only Hong Kong Air, that they fixed the problem. Now the airport is back to its full operations. Hopefully, there won't be problems like this in the future. Especially, since there are a number of airlines operating now on Saipan."

HK Air flies twice a week from Chek Lap Kok International Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport every Wednesday and Sunday at 5:30pm (Hong Kong time), and Monday and Thursday at 12:30am (Saipan Time).

PAL Express and Jin Air are the latest carriers that began their operations to Saipan in the last two months. Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Asiana Airlines, and Jeju Airlines are the other airlines that offer flights to Saipan.

INDEPENDENTS

From Page 1

candidates for Precinct 3 along with press secretary and GOP spokesperson Ivan Blanco, Donald Barcinas, and Joe Itibus.

Deleon Guerrero said that he was just going back to his roots since he started his political career under the Republican Party. "Even when I was an independent, I've been working with the Republicans in the Legislature and the administration in supporting their programs."

He added that the local GOP, chaired by Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, have been asking him to join the party since the last election. "But I told that I wanted to stay as an independent for the meantime. And they respected my decision. They asked me again for this election and this time I agreed."

If reelected for an eighth term, Deleon Guerrero said that his priorities would be the war on ice, education, regulating the casino industry, and finding solutions in government agencies that have been hounded by problems."

"One of the issues that we must prioritize is the war on ice. Education also must be on top. We must also make sure in regulating the new industry and making sure all protections are in place. And to continue to find solutions in problem areas like the [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and the hospital," added Deleon Guerrero.

"Things are also looking better. We're now in the position to even help raise the salaries of our government employees that's been frozen for more than 10 years. There are things that we can do now. We also have the resources to ensure that there's enough funding to have the pensioners continue to get paid."

Sablan is also a returning Republican. "I consider myself a lifetime Republican, since I got back in college I was already involved in party activities. I ran as a Republican for the first time and won but I ran as an independent in my reelection and the last election."

"I've been contemplating a lot going back to the party since the last election but I feel this is the right time to join again. The party and the leadership is back in order," he added.

Sablan said that he would focus more on the economy and will do his share in helping steer the CNMI to the right direction. "We've been satisfied with what the current administration is doing, from the time of the late governor Eloy S. Inos to the present."

"But there's so much more to do. The revenues are up, that's why we must put together a leadership in January that will not change the current economic policies. We want to make sure we continue to move the economy forward and strengthen it further."

"We want to continue to work on what we started and we want to make sure we continue the economic progress. We can't change direction right now," added Sablan, who was glad to get the full support of the party.

Dela Cruz, on the other hand, said he wants to focus more on housing and also to solve the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s problems if elected. "At this point in time, there are a lot of things that need to work on. Tourist arrivals are up, a sign that the economy is picking up."

"But we have an issue on housing and I plan to work on that. I already discussed it briefly with the governor and he was very receptive to the idea. I also have some ideas on how to help in finding solutions to CUC's problems."

"We want CUC to fix the leaks and the old pipes, that should be the priority. If we can bring down the 60 to 70 leak percentage down to less than 10, then I believe, we can start talking about bringing in the oral system."

PANGELINAN

From Page 1

BOE how long will I stay as acting commissioner. I know, I'm just on an acting capacity until a new commissioner gets appointed," said Pangelinan, who has been actively involved in the PSS Early Head Start program.

"I'm just going to do what I can for the students since we're going to start the new school year next week. We live by the PSS' motto of 'Students First' and we're going to make sure our students will come first," she added.

"I know this is for a little while and the position is a very challenging one, but I'm going to make the most of it and we're going to move forward on how the commissioner [Sablan] prepared us. We're going to follow the program that she started," said Pangelinan.

Pangelinan is also in an online degree program where she's finishing her doctorate in education. Asked if ever the position is offered to her permanently: "I have to finish my doctorate degree first."

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said he's fully supporting Pangelinan's appointment in an acting capacity. "She is a very capable woman to take the helm of acting-ship. I fully support her in that capacity and had the respect of her colleagues and associates. Right now she's focusing her attention to the opening of the school year."

The BOE chair said they are still in the process of accepting applicants for the position to be vacated by Sablan next week. Candidates must have earned their doctorate degree.

"First we need to review the job descriptions and make a job vacancy announcement that will most likely go for a month," said Guerrero.

The board will review prospective applicants and also conduct interviews before making the final selection and appointment," he added.

Sablan, last month, decided not to have her contract renewed and chose to retire instead that, according to her, has been long overdue. She was a former principal at Garapan Elementary School and replaced David Borja, who failed to complete his four-year term at the helm of PSS, in 2009.

CEC

From Page 3

Tinian Department of Public Safety from 8:30am to 4:30pm on that two days.

Villagomez said that on Rota, a CEC staff will accept nominating petitions and candidacies at the Youth Center also at the same days and time.

Villagomez said the same CEC staff can also assist the registration of voters on Tinian and Rota.

The deadline for submission of nominating petitions and candidacies will be tomorrow, Wednesday.

DFS launches 'First Class Beauty' campaign

By JOAN L. TAITANO
joan_taitano@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Duty Free Shop unveiled its worldwide "First Class Beauty" campaign for the entire month of August last Saturday at the T Galleria in Garapan.

"First Class Beauty" by DFS is a celebration of global trends from the world's best in skincare, makeup, fragrance, and beyond.

Twenty-one DFS airport and downtown T Galleria stores in eight countries are participating in this year's campaign that highlights the four themes of beauty—explore, relax, party, and sleep.

DFS products sales manager Jomari Zion Lazatin Pico says that this is the third year that DFS has promoted the "First Class Beauty" campaign on Saipan.

Asked how the "First Class Beauty" campaign on Saipan compares to other "First Class Beauty" campaigns worldwide, Pico said, "With all the offerings that we have during the event, we definitely consider our utmost customers' [satisfaction]. From the plinko game that offers great prizes for the people who purchased products from the beauty department; having personalized Jo Malone London box that is perfect for gift giving; being able to take a photo with our Versace models; and with our roving cart filled with bottles of water, tattoo arts, and balloons for the kids, this will surely make the whole experience memorable."

Even though DFS encourages customers to buy their featured beauty products, the public can also enjoy DFS' "First Class Beauty" campaign without any purchase.

According to Pico "our make-up demonstrations, and skin care consultations are always a service that we provide to our customers in a daily basis. For this particular event, we also have the boarding passes that our tour agents eventually will pass out to random customers at DFS to get a chance to win some prizes with no purchases necessary and with the grand prize of a year supply of Lancome products.

JOAN L. TAITANO

The wonderful and accommodating staff of DFS Group Beauty Department, led by product sales manager Jomari Zion Lazatin Pico, right, explain the luxury retailer's "First Class Beauty" campaign.

JOAN L. TAITANO

Get your picture taken with Versace Eros models on Fridays and Saturdays during the whole month of August

Personalize a Jo Malone London fragrance box from local artist Emily Santos with a purchase of two or more Jo Malone London products

JOAN L. TAITANO

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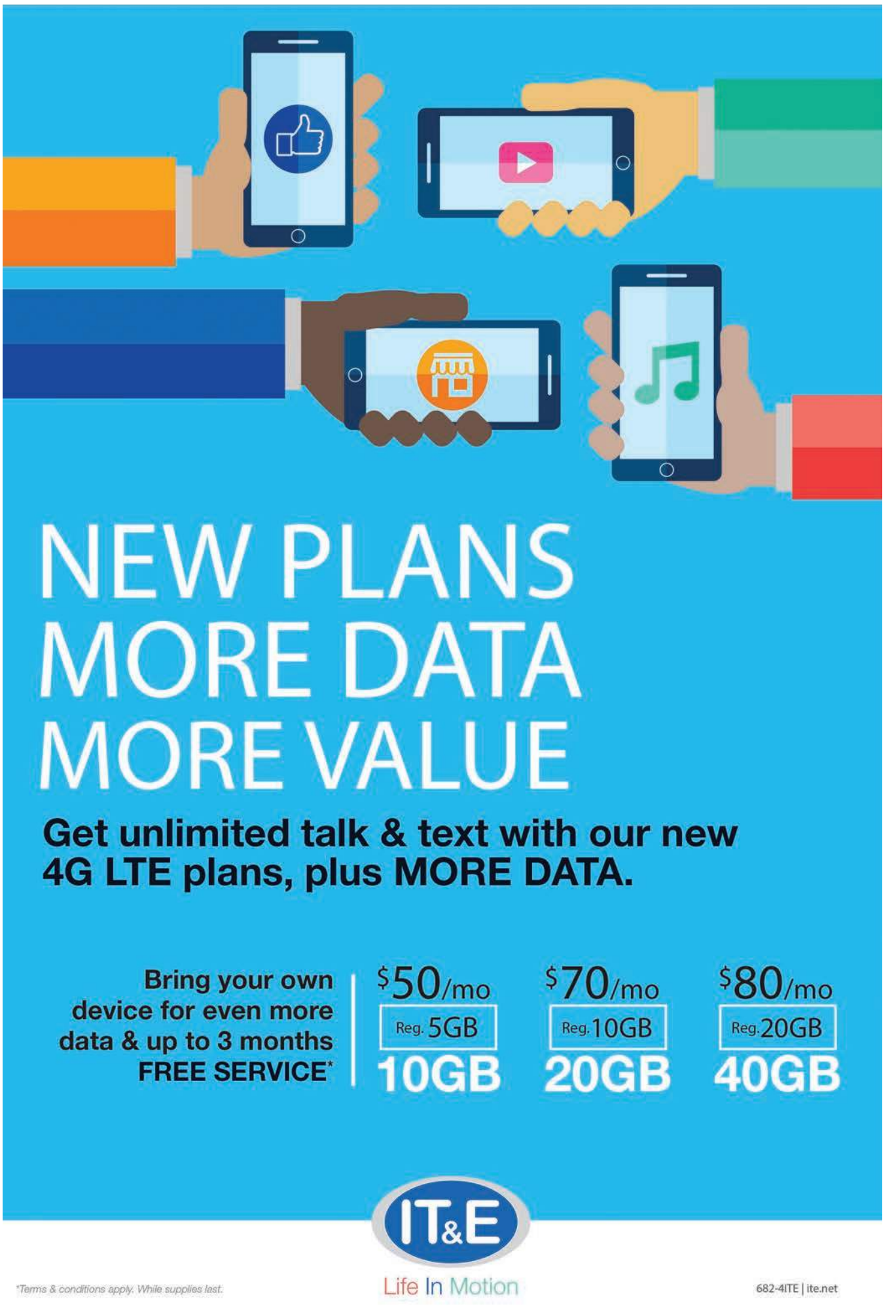

Ex-lawmaker's son arrested for possession of 2 guns, ammo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Marshal Service agents arrested yesterday an ex-convict for alleged possession of two firearms and ammunitions at separate incidents on Saipan in December 2015 and in June 2016.

Herman P. Santos was served with an arrest warrant issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy appointed attorney Robert T. Torres as counsel for Santos.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant after an indictment was filed, charging Santos with two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Santos is also known as Hermanny Palacios Santos, Hermany Palacios Santos, and Jr. Santos.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday.

According to the indictment, Santos, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Harrington and Richardson model 732 .32 caliber revolver and three rounds of .32 caliber ammunition, on Dec. 6, 2015.

Santos was also allegedly found in possession of a Savage Arms Model 24 410/22 "over and under" firearm and 11 rounds of .22 ammunition and two .410 shotgun shells, on June 3, 2016.

The U.S. government seeks the forfeiture of the guns and ammunitions upon defendant's conviction of the offenses.

According to Superior Court records, the Dec. 6, 2015 incident stemmed from the arrest of Santos for allegedly pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father, former lawmaker Christopher Leon Guerrero, at a poker establishment in Garapan.

In January 2016, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho dismissed without prejudice the amended information charging Santos with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, upon the Office of the Attorney General's request.

Dismiss without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub moved to dismiss the case. She did not elaborate. The judge granted the motion.

Police officers later checked the back of Santos' house, where they recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. That same day, Dec. 6, police arrested him.

$47M from casino's FY'16 BRGT identified for appropriation

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has authored a resolution to formalize the amount of business gross revenue taxes paid out by the Saipan casino, projected at $47 million for this fiscal year, so that these may be appropriated by the Legislature.

Saipan casino law provides that these BGRT funds would be appropriated for the levelized energy adjustment clause rate subsidy, the local hospital, the medical referral program, and payment of land compensation judgments, and the Public School System.

House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) had earlier asked Torres to identify these funds for Fiscal Year 2016.

Torres, in an Aug. 1, 2016 letter, identified additional projected resources from the gross revenue tax from Saipan's exclusive casino in the amount of $47 million for FY 2016, according to the concurrent resolution pre-filed last Thursday.

"The Legislature desires to approve the additional resources which are available for appropriation in Fiscal Year 2016" pursuant to the casino law, the resolution states.

The House earlier adopted a concurrent resolution, HCR 19-1, identifying $149.45 million available for appropriation, following Torres' submission of his proposed budget for next fiscal year. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

CCA board meeting on Aug. 16

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Aug. 16, 3pm at the CCA Conference Room.

Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com.

CCA is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liasion and advocate for cancer issues in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the region.

It began as a coalition of volunteers who are committed to reducing the burden of cancer in the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Bill requiring public land leases to connect to CUC now law

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has signed into law a Senate bill to require all public land leases to include a condition that lessees must connect to and use the local power grid.

But Torres also signals his desire for follow-up legislation to clarify the law.

"While this bill has become Public Law 19-59, I respectfully request that clarification be added in form of an amendment to this Public Law, namely, to exempt small parcels of public land in remote areas of the Commonwealth from the mandate to connect to the [Commonwealth Utility Corp.] power grid," Torres wrote in his Aug. 2, 2016, letter to the Legislature.

Per the new law, the condition to connect to CUC grid will be subject to the utility's evaluation of the development's power requirements and if existing power generation capacity is capable to provide demand.

If necessary, the lessee may be required to provide and pay for improvements and upgrades to the power grid to meet additional power load of the development, according to the new law.

If the CUC determines that existing power capacity is incapable of provided the estimated power needs, the lessee may be exempted from the condition to use the power grid until the CUC's generation capacity is capable to accommodate the development's power requirements. ***(Dennis. B. Chan)***

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This ad is paid for by the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Balabagan now an anti-human trafficking advocate

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former overseas contact worker Sarah Balabagan has been sharing her own experiences of being a human trafficking victim in the early 1990s. She was forced to work in the United Arab Emirates at the age of 14 with her recruiter faking documents to show that she's 28 years old.

"I want to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking after I experienced it first hand," Balabagan said in a mix of English and Filipino. She had a concert in Guam and on Saipan last week as part of Church 360's community programs.

"I became a resource speaker in several forums about human trafficking in the U.S. where I talked about my experiences. We must fight human trafficking especially against women," she added.

Balabagan said that human trafficking victims sometimes could not escape their situation or worse are killed. Forced labor, sexual exploitation, and slavery are some of the forms of the trade. A United Nations study in 2008 revealed that an estimated close to 2.5 million people from 127 different countries are being brought in illegally to 137 countries worldwide.

Balabagan, who came from a poor Muslim family in Maguindanao province in the Philippines, worked as a domestic helper in the UAE to help her family. In the UAE, a widower's family employed her, and despite hearing tales of rape from other Filipino domestic helpers, she was certain that her employer would not attempt to do such a thing since they were both Muslims.

But Balabagan's employer, Almas Mohammed al-Baloushi, allegedly made sexual advances on her and in July 1994 purportedly tried to rape her. She killed al-Baloushi in self-defense by stabbing him. She was tried and the UAE court found her guilty of manslaughter and sentenced her to seven years imprisonment and ordered to pay 150,000 Dirhams ($41,000) as blood money to her employer's relatives.

The prosecution team, however, appealed the verdict as they wanted the maximum penalty of death by firing squad. The Islamic Court upheld the initial ruling after finding no evidence of rape and convicted her of premeditated murder in September 1995.

Her situation hogged the international headlines as many saw her case as a symbol of the poor treatment received by domestic helpers in several countries in the Middle East. She managed to escape her execution after the UAE government appealed to al-Baloushi's family, who then agreed for a lesser offense of one year imprisonment and being caned 100 times.

"I no longer have bitterness on what I experienced in the past. I learned how to forgive and to also accept forgiveness. I had peace of mind and personal healing through counseling and the help of a lot of people," said Balabagan, who converted from Islam to Christianity.

"Now, my outlook in life has changed. My dream back then was just to help my family but I think that's not only God's mission for me. I now share my past experiences and how God changed my life to different organizations, churches, and countries. I just want to give back on my newfound life."

Balabagan has also visited the United States, Guam, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Macau. "I saw the response of my countrymen who are working as OFWs and domestic helpers. They can relate to my stories and God's word, and that gives them hope."

JON PEREZ
Sarah Balabagan, right, and several members of Church 360 arrange some items that they will need for their mission of spreading God's word. The former overseas Filipino contract worker was on Saipan last week for a one-day concert.

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Casino Service Standard & Know Your Customer
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How to deal with irregularities and special circumstances
Course Start Date: Early September
To enroll, please come to our BOG office by Aug 24th, 2016. Applicant should bring along
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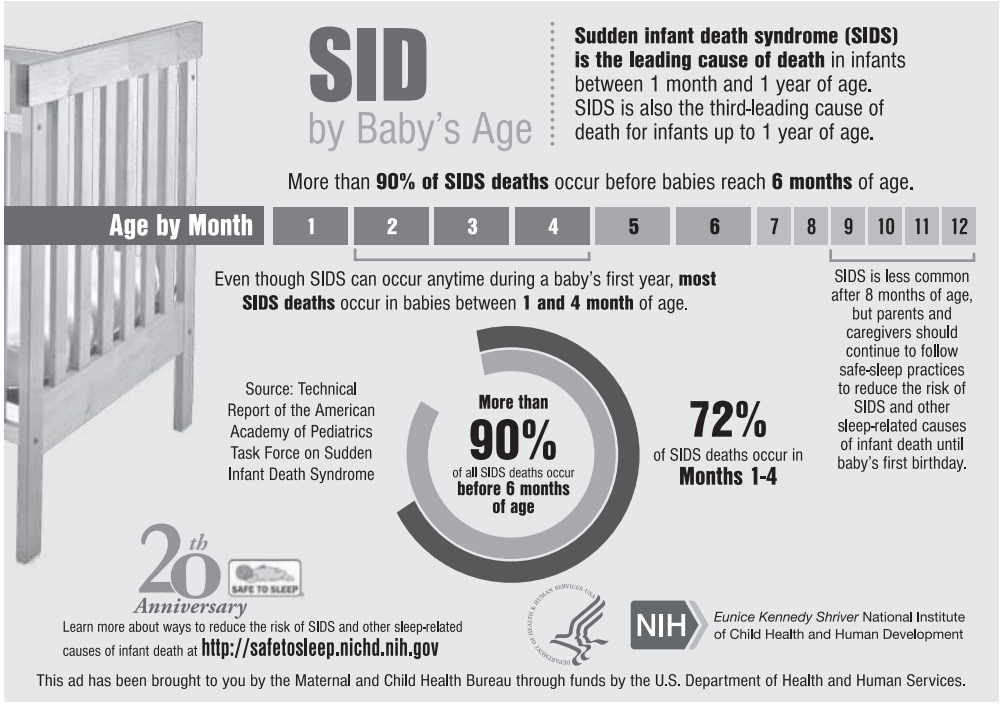
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Age by Month
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Source: Technical Report of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
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Trump's 'PH terrorist nation' statement condemned

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The leader of the United Filipino Organization is disgusted with a statement made in a recent rally by Republican Party presidential candidate Donald Trump wherein he called the Philippines a "terrorist nation."

UFO president Bong Malasarte believes that if the GOP bet wins the U.S. presidential elections in November, Filipinos and other immigrants would be further marginalized because of his incendiary speeches.

He also said the real estate mogul and reality TV star would be best served if he withdraws his recent statement disparaging the Philippines because it would surely have a negative effect on his campaign, especially getting votes from Asian-Americans.

"Low presidential approval ratings are to be expected if Trump does not withdraw this statement. He has already offended numerous Filipinos abroad," said Malasarte, who cleared that his comments doesn't in any way represent the stand of UFO.

"[Trump's statement was] not good at all for Filipinos. Many Filipinos will get offended by this statement. Filipinos are very good at blending in, they lay low as much as possible when in a foreign country," he added.

According to Malasarte, for a president to be effective, he must be strict but also just. A president must also be able to look at the facts, and not rely on overgeneralization for conclusions, especially in an issue as thorny as immigration reform.

Earlier, Guam Senator Nerissa Underwood, former Interior Assistant secretary Tony Babauta, and U.S. Senator Brian Shatz expressed their disappointment with Trump's recent rant about illegal immigration. Trump said in a recent rally in Maine that the Philippines is a "terrorist nation," and therefore its citizens should be barred entrance to the United States.

Underwood expressed great disappointment and even asked Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and island Republican leaders to repudiate Trump.

"Donald Trump's latest disturbing statement and rant suggests that as President he would ban immigration from countries like the Philippines. This is reckless and does not embody our values as a country or island. The Philippines helps America fight terrorism and Filipinos contribute to our island's (Guam's) success. Filipinos on our island and across the country serve in uniform, in our hospitals, in our schools, and across every private and public sector—Filipinos are also beloved members of our families and communities," he said.

"The people of Guam believe in respect and dignity, we expect to be treated equally as—it is clear that Mr. Trump and the GOP leadership are not living up to our core beliefs with statements like this. I call on Guam's Republican delegates and Governor Calvo to repudiate Mr. Trump's divisive and disrespectful rhetoric and un-endorse his candidacy for President," added Underwood.

For his part, Babauta feels that what Trump did has the potential of hurting the U.S. more than helping it.

"There is clear and present danger should a Trump presidency come to a fruition and with Mr. Trump's latest comments, he's now extended his anti-immigrant and bigoted views to include the Asia-Pacific region and toward one of our country's most important partners in our effort to defeat terrorism," he said.

"I join leaders like Senator Underwood and U.S. Senator Shatz, as well as the Filipino community in their repudiation of Mr. Trump. His latest comments threatens U.S.-Philippine relations because the Philippines has been one of the most effective partners in anti-terrorism activities," said Babauta, who is currently a candidate for Guam's delegate seat to the U.S. Congress.

Suspect in Ming Yang Supermarket heist sought

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a burglary and theft incident that happened at Ming Yang Supermarket in San Vicente Village.

On Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2016, at about 10:14pm, Department of Public Safety officers responded to the incident and met with the victim, a 34-year-old local female who reported a suspect stole her purse from her car parked in front of the store. Police reviewed the video footage and identified the suspect as an Asian male, about 6 feet tall, 180 lbs, thin build, short dark hair, wearing glasses and a white T-shirt with the words "CLAMBAKE" printed in the front and blue shorts and gray sneakers.

The victim after purchasing items from the store left her purse unlocked in the car and went back into the store to purchase another item. During that time the suspect took the opportunity to walk to the victim's car, a White 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander SUV, open the unlocked door, grab the purse, and flee the parking lot in a dark colored (possibly dark green) SUV. Items stolen include a Brown Michael Korrs purse worth $260, a set of keys, one Gucci watch $100, and two flash drives worth $60.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Surveillance camera footage of the suspect in the Ming Yang Supermarket parking lot burglary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A photo downloaded from the Internet of the type of Brown Michael Korrs purse worth $260 that was allegedly stolen by the suspect.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A photo downloaded from the Internet of the type of Gucci watch worth $100 that was allegedly stolen by the suspect.

Lawmaker wants casino BGRT funds to help local drug court

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) has authored a bill to include the local drug court as a recipient of funds collected and budgeted from the business gross revenue taxes paid out by the Saipan casino.

House Bill 19-193 amends Saipan casino law to add "Judicial Branch-Drug Court" to the list of agencies eligible for the BGRT funds from the casino.

Guerrero's bill says that the drug epidemic continues to plague the CNMI and singles out methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "ice" as negatively affecting young people, families, and communities.

The bill says the drug court's purpose is to implement rehabilitation programs for these individuals with drug addiction. "However, even with the enactment of the Public Law 19-14 and the numerous benefits it can provide to our beloved Commonwealth, the drug court lacks the necessary funding needed in order to properly carry out their duties to make the CNMI a better place," the bill states.

The bill was pre-filed last Thursday. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 9, 2000

Law restricts activities on Managaha

Managaha Island and its surrounding waters is now a marine conservation area in a bid by the CNMI to protect the popular tourist site from unrestricted commercial and recreational activities. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed Public Law 12-12 or the Managaha Marine Conservation Act of 2000 — the first ever sanctuary created by government — as he noted that regulations aimed at safeguarding the area's resources will preserve its beauty for future generations. Any violation of the new rules will result to a fine of between $500 to $10,000 and seizure of equipment and items by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources through the proposed Marine Conservation Section, according to the landmark law.

NMC tuition competitive with other Pacific colleges

Compared to other two-year colleges in the Pacific, the Northern Marianas College offers a fairly competitive tuition rate, according to an in-house study commissioned by the college. Based on a survey of nine Pacific community colleges, NMC ranked 3rd among colleges offering the lowest resident student tuition rate at $65 per credit. The College of the Marshall Islands is recorded to have the highest tuition rate for its resident students at $95 per credit.

Other state colleges in Hawaii, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia offer an average tuition ranging from $40 to $60 per credit. "This reveals how competitive our college is to other institutions. We belong to the higher end but we're still competitive," said NMC Development and Alumni Relations Director Tony Deleon Guerrero. NMC's tuition rate for nonresident students is twice the amount offered for resident students at $130 per credit.

August 9, 2004

New labor regs to benefit local workers

Resident workers may now file a complaint for possible violations of the local preference law and minimum wage requirements. Employment Services and Training director Alfred Pangelinan yesterday reiterated that contrary to the belief of some sectors, the new labor rules and regulations aim to benefit resident workers, and not only alien labor. "The new regulations give resident workers more opportunities to secure jobs," Pangelinan said. For instance, he cited, the new regulations provide a process for resident workers to lodge complaints with the Division of Employment Services if they feel that they have been discriminated against during a hiring process.

Govt, FEMA signs accord on typhoon aid

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinating officer William Lokey yesterday signed an agreement for relief and assistance in connection with the damage caused by Typhoon Tingting last June.

The agreement, which provides for a 75-25 fund sharing, came following President Bush's declaration of the CNMI as a major disaster area on July 29. "This is to implement the President's declaration. It would allow FEMA to set up a shop here and go about the business of ascertaining the extent of damage caused by the typhoon," said Babauta during the signing ceremony. Babauta noted that the CNMI would be eligible for a 90-10 fund sharing if total damage cost exceeds the threshold. On Saipan, major damage were reported affecting the hospital and utilities. She said that damage on Beach Road will be reassessed.

August 9, 2005

'Expand Japanese orchards for coffee production'

The CNMI shows great potential for coffee production and by expanding the old Japanese orchards the islands could actually even accommodate the growth of the industry. According to the recently held Coffee Production Workshop, led by instructor Ray MacDuff, a coffee industry is possible by reviving aside from expanding the old orchard for the coffee plantation. He also said planting new orchards with recently developed hybrid coffee, called cultivars, which could tolerate Saipan's climate could boost the industry on the island. MacDuff said the workshop was aimed at helping the farmers and potential growers to determine what kinds of coffee cultivars are suitable for the local climate so that success in production could be achieved.

Housing Board OKs $65K for water project

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation approved yesterday a $65,000 funding request by the CNMI Water Task Force for the replacement of water service lateral connections at Lower MIHA in Garapan. Task force program manager Don Smith petitioned the Housing board to help with the funding for the replacement of the water lines from the NMHC building down to the Garapan main street over to the Garapan Elementary School. These service laterals connect the customers' water meters to the main water line. Smith explained that the existing service lateral connections were galvanized and corroded. The task force expects to commence the project within 60 to 90 days and have it complete by February or March.

Saipan dance group competes in Las Vegas

By JOAN L. TAITANO
joan_taitano@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Music and Dance Studio dancers are competing in the 2016 Hip Hop International competitions in Last Vegas, Nevada that started yesterday and will last until Aug. 13, 2016.

According to Kevin John Razon, head choreographer/director of the dance troupe, "The Hip Hop International Dance Competition is a seven-day, three-round competition that leads up to the World Hip Hop Dance Championship in four different group categories—junior (7-12 years old), varsity (13-17 years old), adults (18 and above), and MegaCrew division which could make up to 15-40 members."

Razon says that the SMADS dancers belong to the varsity division and would have a preliminary competition on Aug. 9-10, 2016. If the dance troupe wins, they advance to the semifinals on Aug. 11, 2016 and then to the World Hip Hop Dance championship finals on Aug. 13, 2016.

The dancers are: Carl Marquez, 17; John Cavinta, 16; Lance Elayda, 16; Catherine Castro, 16; Carl Lambat, 15; Jenalyn Tinio, 15; Mary Sablan, 15; and Donna Galvez, 15. The dancers are accompanied by Angelica Chong-Valencia, assistant head choreographer/team leader; Prajan Panthi-Sunar, choreographer; and Ester Sablan, SMADS owner.

Razon explains that they have been raising money for about a year and a half for this competition.

"We started training about four months ago when we were informed that we had been accepted. Thousands of crews in numerous countries all auditioned but only a selected few were invited to compete. Surprisingly, we were selected this year and we are very proud to even be presented this type of opportunity."

What the SMADS dancers accomplished was not an easy feat. Razon said, "Hip Hop international is like the Olympics of dance. I strongly believe that our team has something new and unique to bring on stage. Where we come from, we don't have big cities and an urban hip-hop environment. We're more relaxed with an island vibe, so that's what our team wanted to show in our dance piece. Along with illusions and showcasing various styles of hip hop with power, intensity acrobatics and a taste of our personalities. We just want to leave a lasting impression to the judges and audience in attendance, especially coming from a small island in the middle of the Pacific."

Asked how the dance troupe would fare against other groups, Razon said, "Win or lose, we're happy to be out there surrounded by those who all speak the language of dance. We are all very passionate; it's more than just dance, it's our lifestyle and to be around everyone else who also shares the same love is rewarding enough."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Music and Dance Studio dancers in action during a recent performance at the Saipan World Resort.

Man pleads guilty for disturbing the peace

A 34-year-old man suspected of being a marijuana and methamphetamine or "ice" user has pleaded guilty for disturbing the peace after coming home intoxicated and beating up his wife in May 2016.

Jordan Tudela, represented by assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, entered a plea of guilty of disturbing the peace in Superior Court last Aug. 3.

Tudela's voluntary guilty plea agreement would entail the following conditions: Sentenced to a maximum of six months imprisonment, the first seven days to be served day for day; placed under supervised probation for a period of two years upon release from imprisonment; must pay a $200 fine plus $25 in court costs and $200 in probation fee, although fines may be converted to Community Work Service; undergo anger management counseling, marital counseling at the Community Guidance Services; prohibited from consuming alcohol during his probation and must obey all CNMI and federal laws as well as the rules of the Office of Adult Probation.

Under the plea agreement, failure to comply with any conditions mentioned above may result to an extension or revocation of probation or an imposition of all or part of the suspended sentence.

Tudela's pre-trial conference is set for Sept. 7, 2016, and the bench trial is currently set on Sept. 28, 2016 under Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Three months ago, in May 2016, Tudela, 34, allegedly beat up his wife after coming home under the influence of alcohol. As a result, police arrested Tudela for assault and battery and assault and disturbing the peace. ***(Joan L. Taitano)***

(AMENDED)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 11, 2016
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/07/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2016-2505: Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. is proposing to operate a drug & alcohol rehabilitation center. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on Lot TR.22507-29, along Haiguas Lane in As Perdido. This area is zoned as Rural.

Conditional Use Application #2016-2703 (Amendment): Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club is requesting to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2013-0270 and approved site development plan to reflect changes in parking layout, building design, and height. This proposal is located on Lots 008 H 29, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37 & 012 H 20. This area is located west of Beach Road and east of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa. These areas are zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communications
D. Old Business
1. None

E. New Business
1. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)
2. Proposed amendments to Zoning districts

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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2 The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain an umbrella is $100 for Priority Banking Levels 1 and 2, and $1000 for Level 3. You will receive the umbrella as a gift when you mention this offer at the First Hawaiian Bank branch and open or convert to a new personal Priority Banking Checking account. Limit: One umbrella per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 8/31/16, or when supplies are exhausted.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Sink your teeth into this debate over flossing

For decades, dentists have drummed the same advice into Americans: Brush regularly and floss nightly because doing so helps prevent cavities and gum disease.

The flossing advice is so rote that everyone takes it for granted that someone somewhere actually studied this and can prove that flossing really works.

Right?

Right?

Wrong. Floss flouters, rejoice.

The Associated Press investigated the claims for floss and found: The evidence for flossing is "weak, very unreliable," of "very low" quality and carries "a moderate to large potential for bias."

Our favorite moment in this floss beatdown: The federal government has recommended flossing since 1979, lately in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. But that recommendation must be based on scientific evidence. After AP inquiries, the feds removed the flossing recommendation from the guidelines this year … and admitted to the AP that "the effectiveness of flossing had never been researched, as required."

AP to feds: You're busted!

Now, before dentists and their defenders start firing off protest emails, let us hasten to add that we still floss every night and we're no experts on the evidence behind the does-it-work-or-not controversy. If it doesn't work as advertised, we figure, it probably isn't doing any serious harm. So don't start or stop based on this editorial. (For the record, we don't plan to stop.)

Still, the floss spool now joins a long and growing list of modern medical (and dietary) pronouncements, claims, warnings, caveats and advice that have proven over time to be unsubstantiated, misguided, wrong, dead wrong or even fatal.

Last year, the nation's top nutrition advisory panel eased off its warnings about cholesterol, after years of warning egg-craving Americans to skip the omelet. Dietary cholesterol can no longer be considered a "nutrient of concern."

The thinking on salt, too, has evolved. (Scientific American headline from 2011: It's Time to End the War on Salt. The zealous drive by politicians to limit our salt intake has little basis in science. And more skepticism ever since.) On fats, too. (Those low-fat, high-carb diets may not prevent heart attacks. Even saturated fats in small amounts may be relatively harmless.)

In the realm of prevention, there are huge scientific battles over the benefits of mammograms and prostate screening for all. Last year researchers jolted millions of Americans who've long been reassured that their blood pressure is well within medical standards. Now research suggests the standards should be tightened.

There's even a mild-mannered difference of opinion between the World Health Organization's 12-step, 60-second hand-washing protocol and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's three-step regimen, which is

See SINK on Page 11

Melania Trump visa questions need to be answered

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine Flowers is a lawyer and a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News*. Readers may email her at cflowers1961@gmail.com*

Normally I'm no fan of the silly-season stuff, and you know exactly what I'm talking about.

I'd rather know what a political candidate thinks about the federal debt than whether his wife is a looker. I'd rather have some understanding of what another candidate will do to lower the unemployment rate than whether her husband is still playing around on the side. These are the somewhat boring, yet nonetheless crucial issues that face us in an election year.

Still, the silly stuff is amusing, and if you're having a particularly long and stressful day, it's enjoyable to plunge into the sticky, sordid little pool of sound bites and non-news.

For example, that thing about Donald Trump yelling at a baby was good for a chuckle. We all know he was joking, but some of us will pretend he eats children for breakfast because it advances our partisan narrative.

And that whole dust-up when Hillary Clinton said, "What difference does it make?" in front of the Bengazi panel last year? We all knew she wasn't a callous witch who brushed off the deaths of four Americans as if they were bits of dandruff on her pantsuit lapel. But it makes for great talking points on the cable news shows, so we run with it.

Those silly-season things, along with the fabricated scandal of a reporter who was manhandled by a Trump operative and the attacks on Megyn Kelly (who can defend herself quite well), are an insult to the voter's intelligence. Unfortunately, the voters have shown that they deserve to be insulted, particularly this year, with their "Entertainment Tonight" tastes. It's a bit ironic to have so many people complaining about the way the media focus on the irrelevancies when these are exactly the things that drive the ratings. Chicken/egg? Perhaps, but I think it's more egg (public)/chicken (media, which want public to pay attention).

Of course, one man's "silly" is another's "important," and depending upon whom you are supporting in the presidential election, that could all be relative. And speaking of relative, or relatives, I normally don't like to talk about them when it comes to politics. That's because they, generally, do not choose to be thrust into the public spotlight when their husband, wife, mother, daughter, sibling or former step-cousin, once removed, decides to throw his or her hat in the ring.

With Clinton, that's, of course, a different story, because her most visible relative was himself a politician who did the sort of thing men often do whenever they have the opportunity, but who rarely get that opportunity in the Oval Office.

Now, up until a short while ago, I strongly believed that Trump's better half fell into that general category of "off-limits," because Melania never thrust herself into the public spotlight. OK, she did, but that spotlight had less to do with elections and more to do with something that rhymes with elections. Something Hillary's husband could appreciate.

I was someone who basically said the racy photos Melania had posed for over two decades ago were a personal matter, between her and several million subscribers to the racy gentleman's magazine in which they appeared. But seriously, it had nothing to do with Trump's candidacy.

Now, however, there is a suggestion that Melania shot those photos when she was working as a model in the United States but before she actually had permission to work in the United States. It's still only speculation at this point, because her original visa documents haven't been made available to the public, but Melania's description of having to return to her native Slovenia "every few months" to get her "papers stamped" is not consistent with what I know to be the visa procedures for a professional model. Usually, models are given permission to work under what is known as an H-1B visa, which is good for up to three years at a time. This would have obviated the need to travel back and forth to Slovenia every few months to "stay legal," as Melania has been quoted as saying.

The most plausible explanation for what Melania did appears to be coming in and out of the country — legally, mind you — on a tourist visa. There are tourist visas for pleasure, and tourist visas for business, but neither of those visas allow you to work. Yes, there are tiny exceptions, but you don't want to hear about them because (1) your eyes will glaze over and (2) none of them applies to sexy Slovenian models.

Melania was never, it appears, illegally present in the country. She did not slip across any border that will be sealed if her husband gets to build his wall. She walked in, head held high. But if she came in with the intention of working, and had only that tourist visa, she could be charged with visa fraud. And that is a big no-no if your husband is accusing lots of other people of being murderers, rapists and terrorists.

Her ex-agent swears that he obtained an H1-B for Melania before she ever modeled for money, and that she was just "confused" when she made those statements about going in and out of the country to "stay legal."

But until we see the paperwork, which is as readily available as Trump's tax returns, there will be a cloud over Melania Trump.

So that is why this story is not part of the "silly season." Donald Trump's unfortunate commentaries about illegal aliens made this story a relevant one, and it unfortunately dragged his wife into a situation that will make her homage to Michelle Obama at the Republican National Convention seem tame in comparison.

Moral of the story: Not everything that seems silly really is. Now, can we talk about Hillary's horrendous taste in pantsuits?

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Is Donald Trump mentally unstable?

By BILL PRESS
Tribune News Service

Bill Press is the host of a nationally-syndicated radio show, a CNN political analyst and the author of a new book, "Buyer's Remorse," which is available in bookstores now. You can hear "The Bill Press Show" at his website: billpressshow.com. His email address is: bill@billpress.com. Readers may also follow him on Twitter at @bpshow.

His critics have used a lot of adjectives to describe Donald Trump: outrageous, flamboyant, pompous, thin-skinned, erratic, egocentric and paranoid, for starters.

But maybe it's time to use another word: "crazy." Not "crazy" as in wild and funny, but "crazy" as in mentally unstable. Given his bizarre behavior, it's a question more and more people are asking these days.

One thing's for sure, we know Trump's a pathological liar. He lies with every breath. He lies so often about so many things he makes "Lyin' Ted" look like a truth-teller. Look at his contradictory statements about Vladimir Putin.

Back in 2014, he bragged: "I was in Moscow recently and I spoke, indirectly and directly, with President Putin, who could not have been nicer." Last November, he claimed he "got to know Putin very well because we were both on '60 Minutes.'" But this week, he told reporters: "I never met Putin. I don't know who Putin is."

Which is it? Did Trump meet Putin or did he not? If he did, don't you think he'd remember? And how could the Republican nominee for president not know who Vladimir Putin is?

We also know that Donald Trump can't take criticism. He has a compulsive need to strike back at anybody who doesn't lavish him with praise: banning from his rallies reporters who wrote critical stories and belittling Republican politicians who were slow to endorse him.

Trump couldn't even tolerate criticism from speakers at the Democratic National Convention — who, it should have come as no surprise to him, were invited for that very purpose. In response to former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Trump tweeted: "I was going to hit one guy in particular, a very little guy."

And then there was his sick, ill-advised diatribe against Gold Star Mother Ghazala Khan and her husband Khizr, parents of Army Captain Humayun Khan, who heroically gave his life to save his fellow soldiers in Iraq in 2004. As powerful as Mr. Khan's convention speech was, it would have been soon forgotten had Trump not kept it alive with five days of mean, personal, and ugly attacks. At some point, even he must have known he'd gone too far, but he couldn't let it go. He couldn't help himself.

But when you add up all of Trump's erratic behavior, there appears to be more to it than just an occasional offbeat moment. Might Donald Trump, in fact, be mentally unbalanced? Some experts have started to say so openly.

Physicians and radio talk show host Dr. Drew Pinsky told CNN's Don Lemon that while Trump does not fit the strict legal definition of insanity, he does show signs of multiple mental illnesses. Writing on the website Big Think, New Yorker science and psychology writer Maria Konnikova suggested that Trump might actually suffer from Narcissistic Personality Disorder, or NPD.

Dr. Robert Geffner, president of San Diego's Institution on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, told me there were three forms of aberrant behavior psychologists look for: NPD, where people have a grandiose opinion of themselves; impulse control disorder, where people act and react strictly on impulse, with no control filters; and anti-social personality disorders, where people manipulate without blinking, say one thing one day and the opposite the next day, with no remorse, guilt, or empathy. When found together in one person and combined with bullying, the results, he said, could be "dangerous and frightening."

Now, I'm no shrink. But if that doesn't describe Donald Trump to a "T," I don't know what does. Need further proof? On August 3, the online magazine Jezebel compiled a list of every bonkers thing Trump did in the last 24 hours.

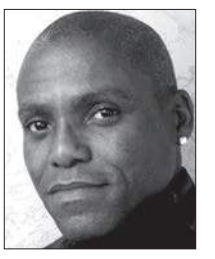
He continued insulting the Khan family, accused two fire marshals of playing politics by not cramming thousands of extra people into his rallies, called Hillary Clinton "the devil," kicked a baby out of a campaign rally, joked about being gifted a Purple Heart medal, refused to endorse Paul Ryan and John McCain, and said if his daughter were sexually harassed, he'd just tell her to find a new job.

It makes you wonder how someone so unstable got this far. As for Trump's mental health, or lack thereof, we may not know until it's too late.

Isn't it ironic? Candidates for the Secret Service must pass a strict psychological exam before being hired, yet there's no such requirement for candidates for president. Whatever you do, don't give Donald Trump that test. He'd flunk it.

Don't bash the Games

By CARL LEWIS
Los Angeles Times



Carl Lewis won 10 Olympic track and field medals from 1984 to 1996, including 9 gold medals. In 1999, Lewis was voted "Sportsman of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee and named "Olympian of the Century" by Sports Illustrated*. He is a member of the Los Angeles 2024 Olympic Bid Committee and wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

There have been few moments in my life as memorable as competing in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The chance to represent my country was a distinct honor, as was being part of the community of the Olympics — an event with the rare power to unite the world in the common spirit of competition and athletic excellence.

The attention, hopes and energies of the global community uniquely fall into sync during the 17 days every two years when the best athletes in the world gather to compete. It's what makes the Olympic Games so special to so many.

As the 2016 Summer Games unfold in Rio de Janeiro, I fear the focus has been skewed too heavily on challenges facing the Games, rather than on what they can accomplish. Scandals, real and hyped, dominate what we're hearing about the Olympics, sensationalized stories fueled by the 24-hour news cycle, social media, and even geopolitics: the Zika virus, construction delays, athlete doping and bans. The shine of the Games is being lost.

It's important and natural to discuss and debate how the Games are run, to investigate the successes and stumbles leading up to the opening ceremony, and the controversies that might follow. But a singular fixation on potential shortfalls and problems ignores what the modern Olympics is able to accomplish. The Games can suspend the troubles of the world, so people everywhere can come together, however briefly, to root for the underdog, the veteran athlete and their home team.

The athletes and their efforts on the track, at the pool and in the arena should come first. They should be what we are discussing and debating. Our expectations and our cheers for their efforts create a powerful and important force, in the stadiums and at home around the television. The roar of the crowd at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the 1984 Olympic venue for track and field, is a sound, a feeling, I will never forget.

As spectators and fans, we shouldn't be tearing down host countries but raising them up. The awesome task of hosting the Games is a true national investment in treasure, creativity and ambition.

Brazil's critics overlook that the Rio Games will be historic by several measures — the first Olympic Games in South America, the first time golfers will compete for Olympic medals in more than 100 years, and the first to see professional boxers in an Olympic ring. The naysayers aren't spotlighting Brazil's much-anticipated chance to redeem itself in soccer, or China's record-setting opportunity in diving, or whether Jamaican Usain Bolt will be unbeatable — again — on the track.

The attacks are not new and aren't limited to Rio. Japan is already facing domestic criticism and media scrutiny as Tokyo prepares to host the 2020 Summer Games.

But athletes and fans have reason to be hopeful about the future of the Games, especially when you consider the Olympic histories of Tokyo and of Los Angeles, which is bidding for the 2024 Games.

Tokyo in 1964 became the first city in Asia to host the Games. The event represented Japan's return to the world stage as a peaceful and prospering country following World War II. And, in spite of ambitious Olympic infrastructure development in the form of highways and the introduction of Japan's now-famous bullet trains, the 1964 Tokyo Olympics are also considered to have been the most economical.

LA has a unique Olympic heritage. It hosted a successful Summer Games in 1932 despite the Great Depression, and again in 1984. In '84, the city relied on private funding, the revenue from TV and other licenses and sponsorships, and the ingenious use of existing venues. The Games were wildly popular and financially sound.

As in Tokyo, LA's bet paid off in the long run. Even today, both Angelenos and American Olympic hopefuls continue to benefit from the surplus funds generated by the 1984 Los Angeles Games. That positive experience from 32 years ago represents a big part of what has made Los Angeles a finalist for 2024, and why its bid — again based on private funding and existing venues — enjoys 88 percent public support from Angelenos.

The potential for success in Rio, and for every Olympics, is being overtaken by Games-bashing. In hosting the Olympics, as in running track, there is always room for improvement. If the 2016 Games end as I hope they will — with the declaration, "The best Games ever," it will be because they made things better by bringing the world together.

That is the enduring power of the Olympics.

SINK

From Page 10

takes half the time.

Our prescription? Inhale. Exhale.

Skepticism about everything from floss to fat is healthy. Even practices not backed by solid, extensive scientific evidence may yield benefits. Flossing food particles out of your teeth may not be a proven cavity fighter, but hey, it sure feels good.

Medicine often advances fitfully, but some prescriptions never change. For instance: The U.S. Surgeon General last year recommended a terrific pill-free way to improve your blood pressure, your mood and your overall health: Walk.

Not high-intensity aerobics, yoga, spinning or exotic health-club-related treadmills or elliptical machines.

Just. Walk.

Twenty minutes a day helps older people maintain their mobility. A brisk walk every day helps people curb their weight.

Just 150 minutes of moderately intense physical activity a week — that includes brisk walking — is enough to bring health benefits that can reduce the risk of disease and death. That way, you'll have many more years to decide every night: Should I floss or not?

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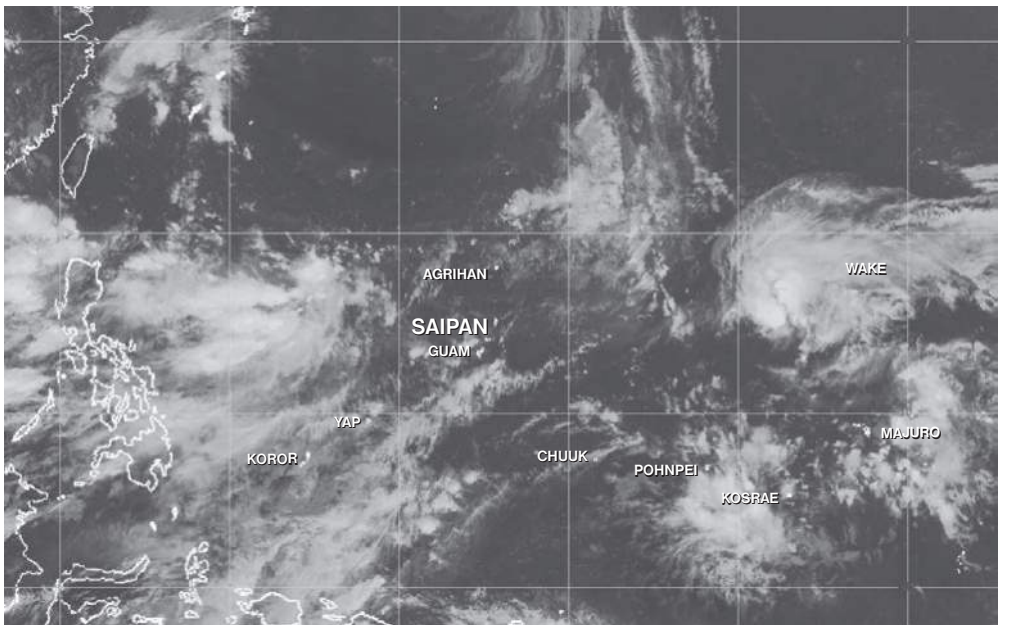
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼80°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

South to Southwest monsoon flow remains anchored across the Marianas. A circulation to the northwest and another to the northeast are forecast by the numerical models to develop over the next several days. While these circulations will miss the Marianas, they will act to enhance the monsoon flow meaning the monsoon regime should stay in place through the entire forecast period. Rain has settled down for a time, could at least partly come back Tuesday, not nearly as heavy as last week though. Winds and waves remain subdued enough that no advisories are anticipated this week. Only change made was to increase the clouds today to cover blowoff debris clouds from the monsoon convection toward the west, north and east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	81 / 89 °F
Palau	Rain	83 / 87 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	82 / 90 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	81 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	81 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	43 / 52 °F
Beijing	Sunny	71 / 86 °F
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	83 / 92 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	74 / 85 °F
London	Sunny	54 / 69 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 79 °F
Manila	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F
Melbourne	Afternoon clouds	51 / 60 °F
Miami	Flash floods	82 / 89 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	69 / 88 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	76 / 92 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	56 / 70 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F
Rome	Sunny	62 / 92 °F
Salem	Cloudy	59 / 74 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	57 / 71 °F
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	76 / 93 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 / 97 °F
Washington, DC	Showers	67 / 83 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75 Feet
7:11 AM	LOW TIDE	0.53 Feet
1:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.38 Feet
6:45 PM	LOW TIDE	0.84 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	11:03 AM	11:06 PM
Wednesday	11:51 AM	11:46 PM
Thursday	12:39 AM	-
Friday	1:28 PM	12:28 AM
Saturday	2:17 PM	1:12 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

UOG partners with Mote Marine Laboratory to advance ocean research

A new partnership between the University of Guam Marine Laboratory and the Mote Marine Laboratory in Florida will benefit scientists, students and faculty while enhancing collaboration in marine research and science education.

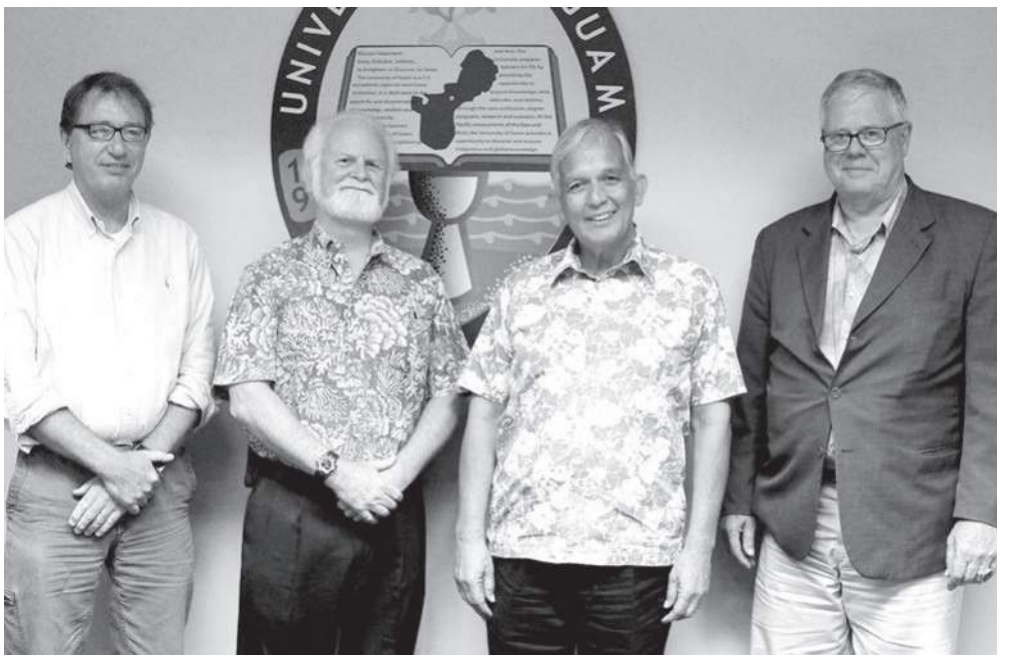
Leaders of the two institutions, UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood and Mote president and CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby, celebrated the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at UOG on Aug. 3. The MOU lays the foundation for collaborations in marine research and education serving the common missions and goals of both institutions.

"Partnering with a prominent institution like Mote Marine Laboratory is an amazing opportunity to continue building our research network," said Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president.

"Mote is pleased to enter into a partnership with the University of Guam, which will facilitate advancements in marine science and strengthen the capabilities of conducting world-class marine research while enhancing the knowledge and broadening the experiences of the next-generation of scientists for both of our institutions," Crosby said.

Under this agreement, Mote and UOG will explore exciting opportunities to partner in teaching, introduce more undergraduate students to the cutting-edge coral reef science at Mote's research facility on Summerland Key and share research and education facilities and infrastructure.

"Coral reefs worldwide are in peril as they face threats such as climate change and ocean acidification," said Dr. David Vaughan, manager of Mote's Coral Restoration Program. "With this partnership, Mote and UOG scientists will be able to collaborate, put our heads together, and truly enhance research investigating resilience in coral reef organisms to ocean acidification, coral reef restoration, coral reef ecology and studying other threats faced by corals today."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The University of Guam recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Florida's Mote Marine Laboratory to advance ocean research. From left, UOG Marine Laboratory director Dr. Terry Donaldson, Mote president and CEO Dr. Michael Crosby, UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood, and UOG assistant vice president of Graduate Studies, Research, and Sponsored Programs Dr. John Peterson.

The new MOU is a framework that will allow institution leaders, scientists and faculty to develop more specific plans for collaboration, with attention to:

- Collaboration in joint grant proposals and research activities
- Seeking sponsorship from various local, national and international funding sources in seven support of collaborative activities
- Exchange of research faculty, research and students
- Access of faculty and students to share and utilize each parties' respective research infrastructure based on availability of space and funding
- Participation in research workshops and academic meetings
- Providing strategic review, advice and recommendations for institutional-level science and research initiatives (i.e., National Science Foundations' Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research; Long-Term Ecological Research; and Science and Technology Centers).

The university had been collaborating with the Mote Marine Laboratory through the UOG Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) project, for which Mote Marine Laboratory President and CEO Dr. Michael Crosby has served as an External Advisory Board member.

"This MOU helps the University and its projects like EPSCoR to continue to leverage our resources and seek funding for future collaborations," said Dr. Terry Donaldson, UOG Marine Laboratory director and Guam EPSCoR principal investigator. "This means greater opportunities for local researchers, faculty, and students."

Mote, an independent nonprofit marine science institution established in 1955, has five campuses stretching from its home base in Sarasota, Florida to its research facility on Summerland Key. There, Mote scientists study the grand challenges facing corals reefs—including climate change and ocean acidification—and they have raised and planted thousands of coral fragments onto Florida's depleted reefs. The Keys facility also serves as a base of operations for hundreds of other researchers from over 60 different institutions around the world and numerous students.

Currently, a new state-of-the-art research facility is being constructed on Mote's existing property on Summerland Key that will be designed to enhance the organization's scientific and educational infrastructure, allowing it to expand research programs focused on restoring damaged reefs and on finding new ways to deal with the challenges they are facing today. ***(PR)***

Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds available for CNMI

The CNMI has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security/ Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board program.

The CNMI has been chosen to receive $79,824 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs here in the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country and territories.

A local board made up of community stakeholders will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The NMI local board distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds last year to the Salvation Army, Guma Esperanza, and Karidat. These agencies were responsible for providing 26,437 meals and 1,372 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact John Hirsh at the American Red Cross (234-3459) for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is on Aug. 19, 2016. ***(PR)***

CIP Office breaks ground on half-a-million gallon reservoir on Tinian

Funded by the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs and through the Tinian Legislative Delegation's Resolution 19-4, the island of Tinian through the Capital Improvement Projects of the Office of the Governor broke ground on a 0.5-million gallon reservoir project in the amount of $1.5 million to be completed by Jan. 28, 2017.

According to the CIP office, the purpose of this project is to install additional water storage capacity to ensure adequate and reliable water supply to the municipality of Tinian and to provide the capability for maintenance of the existing 0.5-million gallon reservoir without interrupting water services to the residents of Tinian.

The construction of the 0.5-million gallon glass-fused-to-steel reservoir will be constructed adjacent to the existent reservoir.

The construction involves the installation of glass-fused steel with an aluminum dome roof and galvanized handrails and railings with associated site improvements. Key components to this project include cathodic protection, the installation of controls and telemetry system, water supply pipes, chain link fencing, vehicle access gates, pressure testing, chlorination, and the restoration of asphalt pavement. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian officials led by Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Capital Improvement Projects staff led the ground breaking for the 0.5-million gallon reservoir project on Tinian.

SOU' Fest 2016

JOAN L. TAITANO

Community Guidance Center's Crisis Counseling Program offered thousands of giveaways to the community during Saturday's SOU' Fest 2016.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh speaks during SOU' Fest 2016 after HANMI handed over a $5,000 check donation to Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts CNMI.

JON PEREZ

CARE-CNMI's Americorps VISTA Resource Development coordinator Maxine Laszlo, left, explains to spectators how the karaoke contest works by donating $1 to the person who they wanted to sing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International-Corporate Social Responsibility staff provide free seedlings to the community who attended SOU' Fest 2016.

JOAN L. TAITANO

Peachy Quitugua with her sister offers a local song to the audience.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The SOU' Fest 2016 stage front and banner.

JON PEREZ

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, third left, hands over a $5,000 check to American Red Cross CNMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch and Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts board members, led by director Jenny Hegland, in last Saturday's SOU' Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Crisis Counseling Program volunteers at SOU' Fest 2016 are all smiles after giving aid.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Giving away seedlings is a symbolic and noble gesture to support the community's work to rebuild and overcome the challenges after Typhoon Soudelor.

JOAN L. TAITANO

Local band Uprooted closed SOU' Fest 2016 by playing original songs which were written from their personal experience during Typhoon Soudelor.

Business

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Summertime and the living isn't easy

It's summer time and the living is ... not so easy for some.

American workers have been taking less and less vacation over the past 15 years. A study by Project: Time Off found that in 2015, more than half of American workers left vacation time unused.

If you are among this unlucky group, consider our tips on why you should take a break and how to do it.

RECOGNIZE THE PERKS: Vacation is a chance to rest your mind and your body from the demands of work.

Doug Walker, manager of HR Services at Insperity said that these psychological and physiological perks can help an employee feel refreshed and more inspired at work and at home.

However, he is quick to point out that a stressful vacation, such as one filled with work emails, may end up leaving a worker depleted. He suggests taking a real break that has no work duties or very limited ones, and allows for some tranquility.

"It's in stillness that life's sediment settles and the murkiness becomes clear," Walker said.

CONSIDER THE HURDLE: The United States is the only developed country that does not require employers to provide vacation time, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. But workers are often entitled to days off that they simply aren't taking.

Project: Time Off found 658 million days went unused last year among those surveyed, the highest ever since the travel industry group began measuring it. Of those, 222 million days are simply lost—they are days cannot be rolled over, paid out or banked for any other benefit.

Employees cite a variety of reasons for forgoing vacation time - they worry about returning to a mountain of work or feel no one else can do their job. Some cannot afford it and others simply want to show their complete dedication.

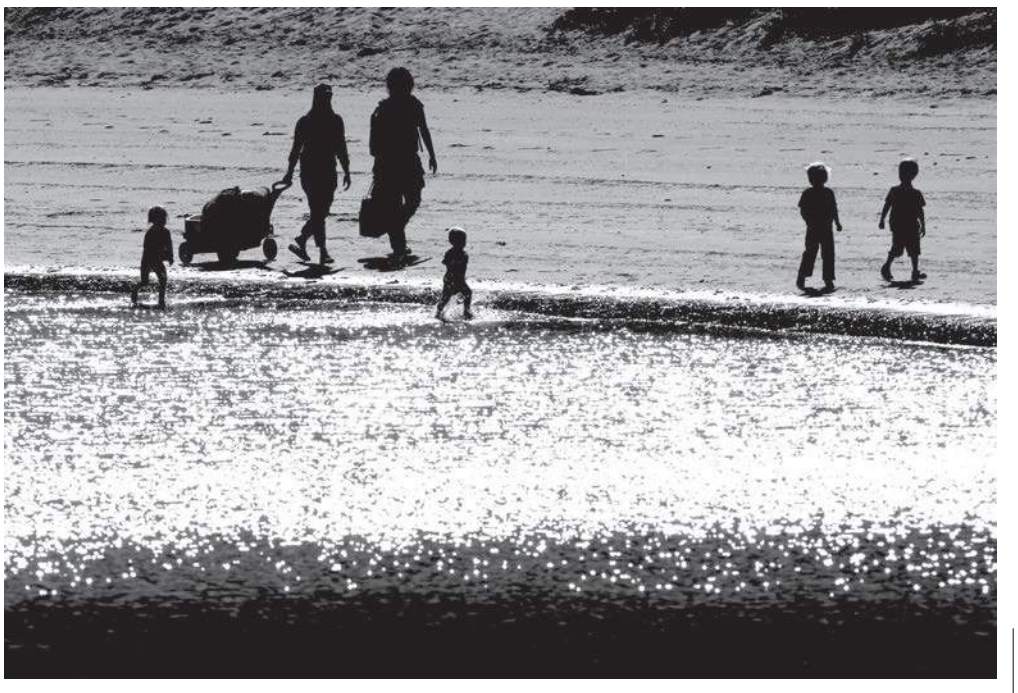
But Walker points out there are very few true emergencies at work and that in most cases someone else can handle it or a problem that arises can wait till you return. And taking a break can make you a better worker.

"It's important to remind yourself of that," Walker said.

WALK THE WALK: If you are the boss, the pressure is on you to take a break.

By actually taking vacation, you signal to employees that it's OK to do so, too. Communicate with them about vacation policies and encourage them to take time off as needed.

"A company's success is all about the degree to which your employees are engaged and effective," Walker said. "If they aren't engaged because they are burnt out or they aren't effective because they are burnt out, they need a break."



AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, file photo, visitors are silhouetted by the morning sun as they walk along the beach at Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay, Calif. American workers have been taking less and less vacation over the past 15 years.

Sometimes the only solution is a new job

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: My manager doesn't like dealing with people. "Karen" usually asks me to handle any matters involving the staff or other departments, while she spends her time working on the computer. She also has me rewrite her emails because she has a history of getting into conflicts.

Although my official job title is assistant manager, I have many duties that are not management-related. Whenever I propose delegating certain tasks to the staff, Karen says the staff members are too stupid to be trusted. As a result, I'm stuck doing a lot of work that should really belong to other employees or my boss.

To make it worse, my pay is based on a job description that does not reflect the management duties I've been given. When I asked human resources to review my position, I was told that despite my title, I am not considered a manager because I don't do performance reviews. They suggested that I should just refuse to do Karen's tasks.

I can't seem to find a solution to this problem. Our higher-level manager never intervenes in department issues, so he won't be any help. Human resources is obviously useless. Karen says she would be lost without me, so I can't abandon her. What should I do?

A: To sum things up, you have an immediate supervisor who shuns human interaction and insults her staff, a senior manager who refuses to manage and an HR department that advises you to blatantly defy your boss. It's no wonder you're feeling hopeless, because that is one screwed-up organization.

Since you can't fix this dysfunctional management culture, it's time to reconsider your reluctance to "abandon" your boss. Karen is a grown woman whose problems are clearly of her own making, so you have absolutely no obligation to save her from herself. Instead, you need to save your own career by getting out of this crazy place.

Q: One of my co-workers is constantly asking me for advice. For example, "Brad" might want me to review a report or give my opinion about a project plan. Although Brad earns twice what I do, he seems unable to operate independently. I've tried to be helpful, but his questions take up a lot of time. What can I do about this?

A: Your pesky colleague continues to ask questions because you keep giving him answers. If you want Brad to become more self-sufficient, then you must stop rewarding his needy behavior. Although you don't have to be rude, you do need to be consistently non-responsive.

In the future, when Brad asks for assistance, be prepared to offer some standard discouraging replies. Examples might include "I'm sorry, but I really don't have time to talk right now," or, "That's probably a question for your manager," or, "I don't think this is something I can help with."

To avoid seeming harsh, always remember to deliver these comments with a friendly smile. If you keep this up and avoid offering any advice, eventually Brad will find a new security blanket.

Former Bell Labs site seeks to inspire new inventors

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—The 2 million-square-foot building where Bell Labs scientists helped launch modern cellular networks before it became one of the country's largest vacant office buildings is drawing companies with the lure of working at a complex surrounded by technological history.

A water tower in the shape of a transistor, which the company's scientists created in 1947 as part of their continuing mission to improve and expand communications, stands over the Bell Works complex in Holmdel, near the site where the Big Bang theory of the universe was proven.

With that history, the developer who acquired the building in 2013 after it sat vacant for seven years is hoping to lure tech entrepreneurs and others to the glass and steel structure originally designed by Eero Saarinen, who also designed St. Louis' Gateway Arch.

Somerset Development President Ralph Zucker envisions the office space as a "metroburb" anchored by tech companies that are joined by retail, entertainment, health care and nearby homes.

"It's an attractive building with an incredible history that was a cradle of many innovations," said Zucker.

Aside from the allure of being surrounded by history, the state's Economic Development Authority also offered millions in tax credits to companies considering moving to the complex.

Bell Works is about 60 percent full after last month's lease signing by human resources software provider iCIMS as the anchor tenant. iCIMS received a 10-year, $38 million tax credit.

Other tenants include the software company WorkWave, data storage startup Symbolic IO and cloud-based communications services designer Acacia Communications.

Plans also call for Toll Brothers to develop up to 40 single-family homes and 185 age-restricted townhomes, as well as a field house for sports.

Mayor Eric Hinds said the redevelopment will build on the work of the past, which itself transformed Holmdel from "a farm town into a corporate destination."

Bell Labs began in 1925 when AT&T and Western Electric consolidated engineering departments to solve the problems of a new telecommunications network, said Bell Labs archivist Ed Eckert.

"It gathered a unique variety of research areas in one company," said Eckert. "The scientists were really good at looking at the big problem and coming up with a solution and improving on it."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gas prices down 6 cents nationally to $2.16 a gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of gasoline in the U.S. has dropped six cents over the past two weeks to $2.16 a gallon for regular grade, industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday. A drop in crude oil prices has driven a nine-week decline in costs at the pump, but those prices have strengthened in the past week and retail price drops are likely to be smaller or cease, Lundberg said. The price has dropped 21 cents since a peak June 3. The average price is 55 cents lower than a year ago. The Lundberg Survey found the average price of midgrade unleaded was $2.46 a gallon, and premium was $2.67.

Exec who helped steer Google's self-driving cars steps down

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An executive who has been helping steer Google's efforts to build self-driving cars is leaving the project after more than seven years on the job. Chris Urmson disclosed his departure Friday as the project's chief technology officer in an online post. He wrote that he is leaving to find another "adventure." Google lured Urmson away from Carnegie-Mellon University in 2009 to direct the once-secret effort to build a fleet of cars that can navigate the roads on their own. Last year, Google moved the lab developing the autonomous cars into a new company called Alphabet Inc., which hired auto industry executive John Krafcik to oversee the project. Google's fleet of 58 self-driving cars has driven more than 1.8 million miles during test runs on public roads.

Nation

Trump to try to steady campaign with economic speech

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump is trying to shift from a disastrous stretch of his presidential campaign to one focused on policy and party unity. But even as his allies speak of lessons the political newcomer has learned, two of his staunchest Republican critics warn that he could be heading for losses in a pair of battleground states.

Trump is set to deliver an economic speech on Monday to the prestigious Detroit Economic Club in his effort to step past his spats over the past 10 days with the Muslim-American parents of a slain Army captain and the leaders of a Republican Party he has promised to unite.

AP
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives for a campaign rally at Windham High School, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, in Windham, N.H.

"Mr. Trump on Monday will lay out a vision that's a growth economic plan" that will focus on cutting taxes, cutting regulation, energy development and boosting middle-class wages, campaign chairman Paul Manafort said in remarks broadcast Sunday on Fox Business. "When we do that, we're comfortable that we can get the agenda and the narrative of the campaign back on where it belongs, which is comparing the tepid economy under Obama and Clinton, versus the kind of growth economy that Mr. Trump wants to build."

What came before Monday's speech, Manafort suggested, doesn't count in the race to Election Day on Nov. 8. "It's a three-month campaign," he said.

Trump may have done irreversible damage in two critical states, Arizona and Ohio, with an approach to immigration reform that some say is divisive, two fellow Republicans say. Trump wants to build a wall between the United States and Mexico and now says he wants to suspend immigration from "terror countries"—though he has yet to say what those are.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who lost the Republican nomination to Trump, has not endorsed the billionaire and skipped the party's convention in Cleveland, said Trump faces a difficult climb in a state that's a must-win for Republican presidential candidates.

"He's going to win parts of Ohio, where people are really hurting. There will be sections he will win because people are angry, frustrated and haven't heard any answers," Kasich said on CNN's "State of the Union." ''But I still think it's difficult if you are dividing, to be able to win in Ohio. I think it's really, really difficult."

In an interview on CBS's "Face the Nation," Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said, "Yes, it is possible" that Democrat Hillary Clinton could beat Trump in his state, noting that Bill Clinton won Arizona in 1996 and that Hispanics represent about a third of the Arizona population.

"You can't just throw platitudes out there about a wall or about Mexico paying for it and then be taken seriously here," Flake said.

Clinton is expected to deliver her own economic plan to the Detroit Economic Club on Thursday.

That's who Republicans want to see Trump fighting—the former senator and secretary of state, not Republicans and others. It's a message furious senior members of the party carried to Trump privately and publicly in the days after Trump last week refused in a Washington Post interview to endorse the re-election bids of House Speaker Paul Ryan, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. The trio had strongly disapproved of Trump's fight with Khizr and Ghazala Khan, Muslim-Americans whose son, Capt. Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004.

Clinton's 'Moscow Spring' ended as Putin returned to power

WASHINGTON (AP)—As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton basked in a diplomatic "Moscow Spring," seizing on Vladimir Putin's break from the presidency to help seal a nuclear arms-control treaty and secure Russia's acquiescence to a NATO-led military intervention in Libya. When Putin returned to the top job, things changed.

Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, has vowed to stand up to Putin if elected, drawing on her four years of ups and downs as the public face of President Barack Obama's first-term "reset" with Russia. By comparison, her Republican opponent, Donald Trump, has rung alarm bells in Washington and Europe with his overtures to the authoritarian Russian leader.

But Clinton's wrangles with Russia led to mixed results. Her fortunes dipped dramatically after Putin replaced Dmitry Medvedev as president in May 2012.

Just weeks later, Russia outmaneuvered her in negotiations over a complicated Syria peace plan, dealing her what was arguably her worst diplomatic defeat. While Clinton hailed it as a triumph, the war only escalated. And while her aides still insist she came out on top, the blueprint effectively gave Syria's Moscow-backed president, Bashar Assad, a veto over any transition government, hampering all mediation efforts still.

"There is no doubt that when Putin came back in and said he was going to be president, that did change the relationship," Clinton said in a Democratic debate last year. "We have to stand up to his bullying and specifically, in Syria it is important."

Clinton's history with Russia is significant given the surprising role Russia has played in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Clinton and her supporters say she would be far tougher on Moscow than Trump, whose unusual foreign policy statements include musings about NATO's relevance and suggestions that he could accept Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region. Russia's reported hacking of Democratic Party email accounts also has led to charges that Putin's intelligence services are meddling in the election, and Trump aided that perception by publicly encouraging Russia to find and release more of her emails.

Husband of Ohio woman hurt by dropped rock dies at 55

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Randy Budd, the husband of an Ohio schoolteacher critically injured when a rock was dropped on her car from a highway overpass has died. He was 55.

Budd died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound and was pronounced dead at his Uniontown, Ohio, home late Saturday night, Harry Campbell, chief investigator for Ohio's Stark County Coroner's office, told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Sharon Budd suffered catastrophic head injuries when a five-pound rock dropped from an overpass crashed through the windshield of her family's moving car on Interstate 80 in central Pennsylvania in July 2014.

Randy Budd said in January that his wife had seven major surgeries and lost part of her brain and one of her eyes. Because part of her brain was affected, he said she would require constant care at home for the rest of her life.

Four young men were convicted and sentenced to prison in a case that attracted national attention.

The Canton Repository published a statement from the Budd family Sunday afternoon.

"The Budd family are all together and are grieving the loss of their dad, husband and brother. We deeply appreciate the tremendous support our family has received from the Massillon, Canton and Hartville areas over the past several years. We ask for your prayers and some privacy as we deal with our loss."

After his wife' accident, Randy Budd became an advocate for requiring fencing on overpasses. Earlier this year, the Budd family helped push through new rules in Ohio requiring any new or rehabbed bridges over most busy highways to be topped with chain-link fencing to deter vandals.

"I kept thinking, this had to happen for a reason. Why would this happen?" Randy Budd said in January. "There has got to be something good to come out of this, and it happened. Now it's going to have an impact in Ohio for years and years to come, and somebody else won't have to go through what we're going through—or even death."

Ohio transportation officials said it means at least 108 bridges or overpasses will get fencing 6 to 8 feet high in the next few years without significant added costs to the projects.

ACROSS THE NATION

Young man killed while playing Pokemon at tourist attraction

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A 20-year-old man was shot to death while playing "Pokemon Go" at a tourist attraction along San Francisco's waterfront, authorities and a family friend said on Sunday. Calvin Riley was shot Saturday night by an unknown assailant at Aquatic Park near Ghiradelli Square, the U.S. Park Police said. A family friend told KGO-TV Riley and a friend were playing the hit mobile game when he was shot. "From what we know there was no confrontation. There was nothing said back and forth. It was just senseless, just came up and shot in the back and ran away for nothing," John Kirby said. Kirby said Riley and his friend had noticed someone watching them from the top of a hill that overlooks the park, but it was dark and they were mostly looking at their cellphones.

1 of 2 skydivers killed in California was first-time jumper

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The mother of an 18-year-old man who was one of two skydivers who died plummeting into a northern California vineyard said her son was jumping for the first time. Francine Salazar told a newspaper Sunday that she accompanied her son Tyler Turner to the Lodi Parachute Center as he and several of his friends celebrated a birthday. "Before he got on the plane, he knelt down and prayed, made his peace with God, and then turned around and gave me a great big, huge hug," Salazar told the *Merced Sun-Star*. "He said, 'I love you, Mom,' and then he got on the plane." She said she never saw her son come down with his instructor because she couldn't tell where they were in the distance and didn't know the color of their parachute.

The parachute did not open, and the two hit the ground, authorities said.

Lawmaker's young son dies on 'world's largest' water slide

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—The son of a Kansas state lawmaker died Sunday on a water slide that is billed as the world's largest, according to officials and the boy's family.

Authorities did not immediately identify the child who died at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City, Kansas, but state Rep. Scott Schwab and his wife released a statement saying it was their son Caleb Thomas Schwab. "Since the day he was born, he brought abundant joy to our family and all those he came in contact with," said the statement, which asked for privacy as the family grieves. Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio said the child died on one of the park's main attractions, Verruckt, a 168-foot-tall water slide that has 264 stairs leading to the top. The slide's name means "insane" in German.

Asia

After shock, Japan warms up to emperor's possible abdication

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese will tune in to Emperor Akihito's rare video message Monday following reports that he would abdicate in the next few years, which initially came as shock but was welcomed by many as a deserved rest for the 82-year-old beloved monarch.

In the pre-recorded message, Akihito will talk about his duties as a "symbol emperor" as stipulated by the constitution, palace officials said. He will most likely avoid the explicit expression of abdication, which would involve political and legal procedures that he is not allowed to discuss.

Akihito still works, though his aides have shifted some of his duties to Crown Prince Naruhito—the elder of his two sons and most likely successor. Yet, Akihito has referred to his old age in recent years, admitting to making small mistakes at ceremonies. During the Aug. 15, 2015, anniversary of the end of World War II, Akihito started reading a statement when he was supposed to observe a moment of silence.

AP

In this Dec. 23, 2014 file photo, Japan's Emperor Akihito waves to well-wishers as he and family members appear on the balcony of the Imperial Palace during the emperor's 81th birthday in Tokyo.

After the initial surprise, the public warmly welcomed the reported abdication plan, saying the hard-working emperor deserves to enjoy his long-overdue retirement. Lifting the abdication ban, a practice inherited from the prewar constitution, would also bring the imperial life closer to the public.

"Changing that will reflect the reality of Japanese society first of all, the way that almost all people here feel about working and life and career building," said Robert Campbell, a University of Tokyo professor and expert on Japanese history and culture.

Afghan general bans Pakistani rupee in southern province

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A senior Afghan police official regarded as one of the country's most powerful men has banned the use of the Pakistani currency in the key southern province of Kandahar.

The police chief of Kandahar, Gen. Abdul Raziq, said he has declared the use of the Pakistani rupee in business transactions a crime. But he says he hasn't yet decided on the punishment.

The rupee has been widely used in Afghanistan's eastern and southern provinces bordering Pakistan. The Iranian currency is used in the western border provinces.

"I'm not against business, but I don't want any other currency to be used in our country, especially the Pakistan and Iranian currencies," Raziq told The Associated Press Sunday.

Raziq's ban came into effect last week. Traders said it had an immediate effect, with the afghani strengthening in recent days.

"This is very good news, as people have been confused about what currency they should use and keep," said Kandahar tribal elder and businessman, Ahmad Shah Khan.

He said the afghani had strengthened to 560 for 1,000 Pakistani rupees, from 630 per 1,000 before the ban. The official Central Bank exchange rate Sunday was 622 per 1,000.

The afghani has also strengthened against the dollar, from 68 to 65 since the ban was introduced, traders said. The official rate is currently 67.5 afghanis to the dollar.

Azrakhsh Hafizi, the head of the international relations committee of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce welcomed Raziq's decision and urged officials nationwide to adopt the ban of foreign currencies.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bombing outside hospital in Pakistani city of Quetta kills 6

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say a bomb has exploded at the main gate of a government-run hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta, killing at least six people. Police official Afzal Khan says several people were also wounded in Monday's blast, which took place shortly after the body of a prominent lawyer killed in a shooting attack earlier in the day was brought to the hospital. Khan says dozens of lawyers and journalists were present inside the hospital when the bomb went off. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Anwalullah Kakar, the government spokesman in southwestern Baluchistan province, says an investigation is underway. It was also unknown who was behind the killing of the lawyer, Bilal Kasi, who was gunned down on his way to court earlier in the day.

Thai voters overwhelmingly approve junta-backed constitution

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai voters on Sunday overwhelmingly approved a new junta-backed constitution that lays the foundation for a civilian government influenced by the military and controlled by appointed—rather than elected—officials. Although near-final results showed that more than 60 percent of voters in a referendum called by the military government approved of the constitution, the vote is likely to be met by some skepticism. The junta—led by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a retired army general who has severely curtailed dissent since coming to power in a 2014 coup—imposed severe restrictions on public discussion of the proposed constitution. Ahead of the referendum, the junta banned political rallies and open discussion about the constitution, and criticism of the draft was made punishable by 10 years in jail. Critics say the restrictions ensured that most people were unaware of the pitfalls of the charter, and were probably anxious to get the long-drawn process over with so that they could move on.

World

Iran executes nuclear scientist who was convicted of spying

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran executed a nuclear scientist convicted of spying for the United States, an official said Sunday, acknowledging for the first time that the nation secretly detained and tried a man who was once heralded as a hero.

Shahram Amiri defected to the U.S. at the height of Western efforts to thwart Iran's nuclear program. When he returned in 2010, he was welcomed with flowers by government leaders and even went on the Iranian talk-show circuit. Then he mysteriously disappeared.

He was hanged the same week that Tehran executed a group of militants, a year after Iran agreed to a landmark accord to limit uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Amiri first vanished in 2009 while on a religious pilgrimage to Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia. A year later, he reappeared in a series of contradictory online videos filmed in the U.S. He then walked into the Iranian-interests section at the Pakistani Embassy in Washington and demanded to be sent home.

In interviews, he described being kidnapped and held against his will by Saudi and American spies. U.S. officials said he was to receive millions of dollars for his help in understanding Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian judiciary spokesman Gholamhosein Mohseni Ejehi said Amiri "had access to the country's secret and classified information" and "had been linked to our hostile and No. 1 enemy, America, the Great Satan."

The spokesman told journalists that Amiri had been tried in a death-penalty case that was upheld by an appeals court. He did not explain why authorities never announced the conviction, though he said Amiri had access to lawyers.

News about Amiri, born in 1977, has been scant since his return to Iran. Last year, his father told the BBC's Farsi-language service that his son had been held at a secret site. Ejehi said Amiri's family mistakenly believed he received a 10-year prison sentence.

Iraqis flee Mosul campaign for packed and underequipped camp

DIBAGA CAMP, Iraq (AP)—Camps for displaced civilians in Iraq's north are overflowing as Iraqi forces push toward the Islamic State group-held city of Mosul, forcing thousands to flee.

Just southeast of Mosul, the Dibaga camp for Iraqis displaced from Nineveh province is steadily expanding. In the camp's center, crowds of angry young men swarm administrative offices demanding proper shelter or permission to leave the camp entirely. In one section separated from the rest of the camp, families call through chain link fences in search of loved ones partitioned by a lengthy interrogation process.

As many as 3,000 people have arrived here in just the last week, according to the camp's administration. The more than 28,000 people living here are sheltering in a patchwork of tents, prefab containers, makeshift shelters and municipal buildings, or just sleeping out in the open.

As the first stages of the operation to retake Mosul from IS progresses, up to a million more people are expected to be forced from their homes by violence, according to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. But local officials and aid groups are already struggling to cope with the current, much smaller-scale influx.

Poor planning and limited resources during the operation to push IS out of Fallujah this summer left tens of thousands of civilians stuck in the Anbar Province desert with no shelter and little food and water. As Iraq's military slowly pushes up toward Mosul from the recently secured Qayyarah airbase west of the Tigris River, Iraqi commanders say they are trying to mitigate the humanitarian fallout by encouraging some families not to flee.

"The situation for the displaced inside the camps is terrible," said Iraqi army Col. Faris Bashir al-Dulaimy of the Nineveh operations command in Makhmour. "Our forces are having more people staying inside their houses as we advance," he said explaining that there isn't sufficient infrastructure to accommodate repeated large influxes of people in need of aid.

IS claims Belgium machete attack that wounded 2 policewomen

BRUSSELS (AP)—The Islamic State group on Sunday claimed responsibility for a weekend machete attack that wounded two policewomen in the Belgian city of Charleroi, calling it an act of reprisal carried out by one of its "soldiers."

Belgian prosecutors identified the machete-wielding assailant as a 33-year-old Algerian known to police for criminal offenses, but not for extremist acts.

Belgian media reported that he was in the country illegally, despite two separate orders being issued for him to leave. The government didn't immediately confirm the reports.

The attack on Saturday afternoon is being treated as a terrorist incident, notably because the man shouted "Allahu akbar!"—Arabic for "God is great"—as he slashed at the officers outside Charleroi's main police station, Prime Minister Charles Michel said.

The assailant, shot by a third officer, died later in a hospital. A statement by the IS-affiliated Aamaq News Agency, posted Sunday on an IS-linked Twitter account, said the attack on the policewomen was in response to the "Crusader coalition's" military campaign against IS and its self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

Belgium, a longtime U.S. ally, is a member of the American-led coalition combating IS, and has supplied warplanes to participate in anti-IS operations.

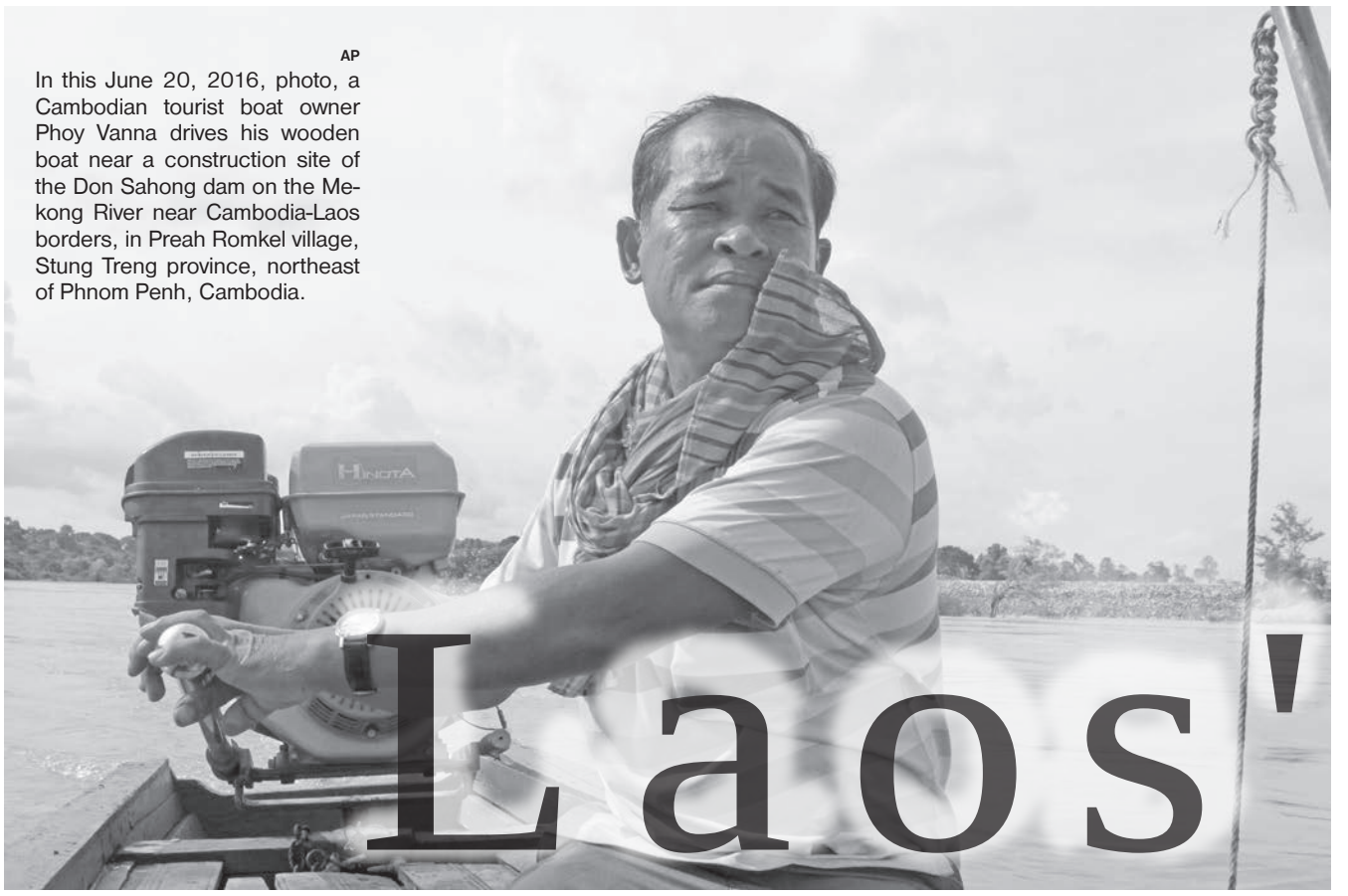
The Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office said the attacker, who it identified only as K.B., had lived in Belgium since 2012.

"Since there are indications that the attack may have been inspired by a terrorist motive, the federal prosecutor's office decided to take over the investigation from the district prosecutor's office of Charleroi," the federal office said in a statement.

Focus

Laos' thirst for Mekong River dams imperils fishing, farming

By STEPHEN WRIGHT
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
In this June 20, 2016, photo, a Cambodian tourist boat owner Phoy Vanna drives his wooden boat near a construction site of the Don Sahong dam on the Mekong River near Cambodia-Laos borders, in Preah Romkel village, Stung Treng province, northeast of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

CHIANG KHONG, Thailand (AP)——Dismissing its neighbors' pleas, impoverished Laos is rapidly building a Mekong River dam that threatens fisheries crucial to millions of Southeast Asia's poorest people.

The site of the Don Sahong dam, less than 2 kilometers (1 mile) from the Lao-Cambodian border, is in an area famous for spectacular waterfalls and deep pools that is among the few habitats of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin. A "coffer dam" blocks one of the Mekong's main channels to allow construction of the hydropower project, which will suck in as much as half of the river's water during the dry season.

Landlocked Laos is Southeast Asia's poorest state, and all its neighbors far exceed its population of 7 million. But by virtue of geography and burgeoning Chinese influence, its secretive authoritarian leaders wield huge, unaccountable power over a 4,800-kilometer-long (3,000-mile-long) river that begins in Tibet and winds through six countries before emptying into the South China Sea.

China has built six dams on its stretch of the Mekong since the mid-1990s, and Laos plans nine. Many dams have been built on Mekong tributaries as well, and dozens more are planned. Experts say they are already damaging the world's largest inland fisheries and degrading a rice bowl delta that helps feed Cambodia and Vietnam, the two countries farthest downstream. Even building a few dams on the lower Mekong will dramatically compound the damage to a river basin that 60 million people rely on, according to scientific models of dam impacts.

The Don Sahong dam "is like a one-ton bomb above us," said Phoy Vanna, a tourist boat owner and father of 10 who has joined hundreds of other Cambodian villagers in protests. "I cannot predict the future of my children," he said. "Now we have a job and we can survive because tourists come to visit."

The rest of Southeast Asia is powerless to stop Laos. Under an international agreement on protecting the Mekong, the country is obliged only to consult its neighbors through the Mekong River Commission. Its neighbors' positions are also complicated by commercial ties. Thai, Chinese and Malaysian companies are building dams in Laos and power companies in Thailand and Vietnam plan to buy the electricity.

Early last year, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam all requested that Don Sahong be delayed to give more time to study its possible effects. That flurry of official communications was already in vain. A day after Bangkok sent its letter stamped "urgent," Laos informed its neighbors through the commission that it was "pleased" to bring consultations with them to a close.

Don Sahong could be especially damaging because it blocks the major route for fish migrations crucial to replenishing the region's interconnected fisheries. The Mekong has many channels in the area but the others are largely blocked to upstream migrations by rapids and waterfalls.

For all that danger, the dam will have only a small power capacity: 256 megawatts. Laos has said the power will help fuel development in the south of the country. Overall, its plans for nine hydro dams call for exporting most of the electricity to Thailand and Vietnam, providing 12 percent of Thailand's future power and about 4 percent of Vietnam's.

"The government has told us that to build this dam is to develop the country," said Sith Mok, an 18-year-old Lao woman who sells soft drinks and snacks to Western tourists. "Nobody could dare to challenge the government about building this project."

Laos says new routes for fish to swim upriver have been created by deepening an inlet and blasting rapids. In an environmental impact study that did not consider effects on neighboring countries, Laos says the mitigation measures will protect fisheries. Malaysia's Mega First, which is overseeing construction of the dam but has no experience in hydropower, has repeated those assertions.

AP
In this June 21, 2016, photo, tourists sit on a wooden boat as they start to cross the Mekong River to close a habitat of dolphin, which is located near the site of Don Sahong dam, near Cambodia-Laos borders, in Preah Romkel village, Stung Treng province, northeast of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The company is conducting a 10-year study on the effectiveness of mitigation measures, but final results won't be available until long after the dam is built. It has contracted China's SinoHydro Corp. to build the dam for $320 million.

A Mega First spokeswoman declined to provide any data. The office of the Lao prime minister, the natural resources ministry and the Lao members of the Mekong River Commission did not respond to requests for comment.

"We don't know what the claims that things will be fine are based upon. This is unacceptable considering the high stakes," said Ian Baird, a geography professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies Mekong fisheries. "If the measures don't work well, it will be too late to undo the damage and there will be regional implications for food security and biodiversity."

Research indicates the combined effect of planned Mekong dams would be devastating, turning much of the lower Mekong into sterile lakes.

Most recently, a study for Vietnam by Danish water consultancy DHI predicted Mekong Delta rice production would drop steeply because the dams would trap sediments, reducing nutrients flowing downstream. The study predicts annual fishery and farming losses of more than $760 million in Vietnam and $450 million in Cambodia, the two worst affected countries. The incomes of fishing and farming villages in both countries would fall by half.

With Don Sahong, Laos followed a pattern established five years earlier when it went ahead with the Xayaburi dam in northern Laos over the objections of neighboring countries. It also is preparing to build the Pak Beng dam near the border with northern Thailand, photographs taken by a river activist show.

Philip Hirsch, a professor of human geography at Sydney University, said China's Mekong dam-building and burgeoning regional influence have emboldened Laos.

For one, the Chinese dams have altered the ebb and flow of a monsoonal river, raising dry-season water levels and making downstream hydro development more viable. Second, China's influence has made Laos' ruling communist party less dependent on Vietnam, the country that will be worst affected by Mekong dams.

"The Lao government claims to see no reason why it should hold back on developing a shared river when China is already doing so," Hirsch said.

Several Mekong dams have also been proposed in Cambodia. One on a tributary would cause Mekong fish stocks to drop 9 percent, according to a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The effects of existing Chinese dams are apparent to many across the Mekong from Laos in the sleepy northern Thailand town of Chiang Khong, which once bustled with hundreds of fishing boats. Now it's mainly a point for petty border trade and for backpackers on their way to Luang Prabang, the old Lao royal capital.

More than a decade ago, a day's catch could be 10 or more kilograms. Today, it's 1 or 2 kilograms or often nothing. Some species of fish have gone altogether. Fishing as a main livelihood has almost disappeared.

"I'm a fisherman but I feel like I have to buy a can of fish to eat," said 60-year-old Somdet Tanatunyakul.

He said the Chinese dams altered water levels and disrupted the life cycles of fish, which rely on cues from seasonal ebb and flow for migration and reproduction.

Unpredictable dam releases also flood and damage riverbank gardens that line the Mekong throughout Southeast Asia. More than half that riverbank land will be lost if all proposed mainstream dams are built, according to an Australian study.

"I'm worried. The riverbank is 20 percent of the land for farming," said Kampai Bunmee, a Laotian-Thai villager, from a family that has been in the same riverbank village for three generations. "If more dams are built down the river, all that agricultural area will be permanently flooded."

Researchers at the Stimson Center, a U.S. think tank, said there are signs sustained opposition from governments and civil society groups is making Lao dams more expensive and might cause some to be shelved. It said the Xayaburi dam's Thai developer spent $200 million on modifications to reduce damage.

But Pianporn Deetes, a campaigner with International Rivers, an advocacy group, said the Mekong will be irreversibly damaged within the next decade without a binding agreement to control development.

"Each dam will be owned and operated by different companies, from different countries. Each of them will be focused on extracting the resources of the Mekong for the highest profit they can make," she said. "Who is in charge of mitigating the impacts on thousands of river communities? In the end, whose Mekong is it?"

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2016 Mazda CX-9

crossover balances style with value, power with economy

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The police officer circled back to us saying, "I gotta stop you, man."

My kids stopped putting their baseball gloves in the liftgate, where we were having ice-cold sodas from the cooler.

I thought maybe he was stopping to tell us the road was blocked by our doors, which were open to air out a 100-degree day of summer sun on black leather interior.

"Is that the new Mazda CX-9?" He asked, standing up his motorcycle and extending his hand.

Indeed it was. In its "soul red metallic" paint (an extra $300), the three-row crossover that is large on the inside but sleek on the outside stuck out like the retractable dome atop the Milwaukee Brewers' Miller Park, where we had parked for the afternoon.

For people like our officer friend, whose wife owns the discontinued CX-7, the distinct Kodo, or "soul of motion," design philosophy of Mazda stands out from cookie-cutter crossovers and middling midsize sedans.

Mazda's "muscular beauty" is defined by a wide wheelbase and stance typically called athletic, complemented by a long-but-low nose with the front windshield set back as in sports coupes.

No longer sharing platforms with Ford's midsize crossover, the CX-9 looks better than the competition and its predecessor. Yet in profile the grille on that long nose hangs like an overbite of Mater proportions, even though it's 2 inches shorter than the outgoing model.

It looks better on the Mazda6 midsize sedan, which shares the platform, but on 20-inch wheels and a larger, taller body, "It kinda sticks out, yeah," Officer C. agreed.

It's forgivable on what otherwise inside and out is a beautiful family car that is more premium than mainstream. Mazda calls the completely redesigned second-generation vehicle its flagship, and it is setting sail for people who like nice-looking, well-performing machines without getting gouged in price.

The $42,270 price tag on the Grand Touring trim did make Officer C. whistle and shake his head. "Good thing I'm getting overtime."

Over a soda, Officer C. checked out the black leather seats and soft dash materials infusing the cabin with comfort and style. The chrome band on the dash winds through the console controls, steering wheel and doors, offering a sleek and subtle contrast of sporty elegance.

In the second row, the kids were more than eager to lift the latch and slide forward the midrow seat so they could get in the third row. It's fine for showing off, but on road trips, one of those seats will need to fold down for storage, or stay empty for sanity. It's more of a jump seat, but Officer C.'s two teen girls and their friends could cram in to transport seven during carpool duty.

It's larger than compact crossovers jammed up with a third-row safety seat, but not as roomy as the Honda Pilot and Ford Explorer. But boy does it drive better.

The CX-9 comes with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine in a class crowded with V-6 engines. Mazda's SkyActiv powertrain is similar to Ford's EcoBoost lineup of direct injection turbo engines that do more with less, topping Ford for best-in-class fuel economy. It delivers a whopping 310 pound-feet of torque at 2,000 rpm, providing plenty of punch and power, with an ability to tow 3,500 pounds.

Pair that with no turbo lag and the CX-9 becomes a sporting proposition, according to Officer C., who initially thought it might be a replacement for the family hauler. This fun-to-drive large crossover will be his, especially since he'll be able to tow his bikes or a small boat.

TNS

Mazda's "muscular beauty" is defined by a wide wheelbase and stance typically called athletic, complemented by a long-but-low nose with the front windshield set back as in sports coupes.

Nimble and lightfooted on the highway, the CX-9 has more than enough torque to execute any passing move, and it's more agile than top-heavy on and off ramps and into turns.

In heavy-footed driving, the six-speed automatic transmission goes deep in the rpm band before shifting, though it purrs around town in low rpms at slow speeds. It is barely audible at idle. The CX-9's ability to transition seamlessly from quiet highway cruising to spirited aggressive passing impressed me more each time I drove it.

There is a similar subtle grace on the inside. The lightweighting that accompanies SkyActiv powertrains has been said to cause a louder interior ride, but Mazda smoothed that out with interior padding. It's quiet on the highway, enough for the kids to sleep and the driver to listen to the Cubs close out the Brewers on AM radio.

The infotainment system is better than most at this price point. Voice recognition software heard us clearly, though we had trouble getting the system to read our phone contacts and go to destinations without an address. The setup is based around a knob in the console, like the German luxury makes, that works far better than systems in Lexus, Acura and Buick. The knob means the 8-inch touch screen mounted in the dash doesn't need to be touched.

That's better for safety, which the GT trim offers in full. Adaptive cruise control keeps the car at a set distance away from the vehicle in front, whether accelerating or decelerating in traffic, and works with lane assist to keep the car on track. We were able to use it in congested areas where traffic slowed to 40 mph, then got back up to 70. We inadvertently tested the forward collision avoidance system while changing lanes on the highway and again around town easing into a stop sign. It's overly sensitive for our taste, like a passenger slapping their hands on the dash at the sight of brake lights.

The only place the controls lag is on the vehicle info display in the right cluster, which is limited. The redundant steering controls aren't as complete in design as the rest of the car. With an info button wedged between arrows to change radio functions, it feels cramped.

Compared with the more expensive and larger Ford Explorer Sport, Honda Pilot Elite and Toyota Highlander Limited, the CX-9 feels less like a series of packages slapped on top of each other and more like a uniformly premium flagship.

One long look at it, and Officer C. was sold without even getting behind the wheel.

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Mazda CX-9 Grand Touring AWD at a glance

- **Vehicle type:** three-row crossover
- **Base price:** $33,320 (base Sport trim)
- **As tested:** $42,270 (excluding $900 delivery)
- **EPA mpg:** 21 city, 27 highway
- **Engine:** 2.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
- **Transmission:** six-speed automatic
- **Parting shot:** Fun-to-drive three-row crossover

In Celebration of her new life

†Victoria Borja Cepeda

Lovingly Known as "Tora"

December 24, 1945 – August 04, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †**Albert Manibusan Cepeda**
Parents: †Francisco Santos Borja and Rosalia Mafnas Borja
Parents In-Law: †Vicente Ilano Cepeda and Nicholasa Manibusan Cepeda
Reared Parents: †Joaquina Borja and Maria Santos Borja (Tuhu')

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her Children and families:

Trinidad C. and Joaquin Dela Cruz {Jack Albert, Vicky, Zachary, Nathan}
Rebecca C. and Peter Paul C. Camacho {Paul Jr, Albert, Kimberly}
Jose Albert B. and Sally Z.Cepeda {Albert, Henry, Jesse}
Raymond B. and Agnes C. Cepeda {Ranaesha, Reina, Alyssa}
Margarette C. and Kevin L. Aldan {Alberta, Kelanie, Margarette, Kevin Jr, Miracle}
†Thelma C. and Wilfredo V. Calantog {Wilson, Steffany}

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

William S. and Lourdes Borja
†Felisa B. and †David Babauta
Carmen B. and †Bernard DLGuerrero
Antonio B. and Lisa Borja
†Jesus B. Borja
Luna Borja
John B. and Melinda Borja
Maria B. and †Pedro Muna
Patricia B. and †Sam Robert

Antonia C. and Larry Cepeda
†Isabel C. and Joe DLGuerrero
†Luis M. and Lupe M. Cepeda
Rosa M. Cepeda
Lourdes C. and Gerado Paguiligan

Care Giver: Alejo Gutijer

She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren, great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated nightly at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church, Kagman followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, August 12, 2016. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 am. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers.

Children and families of the late
†Albert M. Cepeda and †Victoria Borja Cepeda

Life & Style

'Suicide Squad' sets August opening record with $135.1M

NEW YORK (AP)—The supervillain romp "Suicide Squad" shrugged off scathing reviews to open with an estimated $135.1 million in North American ticket sales, scoring one of the year's biggest box-office debuts.

Pressure had risen on the performance of the Warner Bros. film, directed by David Ayer, following the studio's previous poorly received DC Comics film, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." But "Suicide Squad" proved a massive draw despite its much-derided lead-in. It set a record for an August opening, easily besting Marvel's 2014 hit "Guardians of the Galaxy," which debuted with $94.3 million.

Though the Warner Bros.-DC Comics alliance was again battered by bad reviews, "Suicide Squad" delivered at the box office.

"We learn as we go," said Jeff Goldstein, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "We've fine-tuned our strategy in terms of who's in charge and how we're approaching all our DC films. We're modifying it in an exciting way to make all the subsequent films as great as possible."

Not everything was roses for "Suicide Squad," though, despite dominating the weekend.

Actors, from centre left to right, Jay Hernandez, Joel Kinnaman, Will Smith, Adewale Akinnuoye, Margot Robbie, Jason Momoa, Karen Fukuhara, Jai Courtney and Cara Delevingne hold Ezra Matthew Miller, upon arrival at the European Premiere of *Suicide Squad*, at a central London cinema in Leicester Square, Wednesday, Aug 3, 2016. AP

(The other new wide release, the feline animated release "Nine Lives," debuted in sixth with a mere $6.5 million.) After fans flocked to theaters on Thursday night and Friday, audiences dropped steeply on Saturday. That could forecast further sharp declines in coming weeks for the $175 million film, which also came with a massive marketing budget.

That was the trajectory for "Batman v Superman," which bowed with $166 million in March but didn't make that much in its entire remaining run in North American theaters. "Suicide Squad," the last tent-pole film of the summer, won't have much competition in the coming weeks, but it will need better word of mouth than "Batman v Superman" to keep luring audiences.

"Suicide Squad," starring Margot Robbie, Will Smith and Jared Leto, went into reshoots after the disappointment of "Batman v Superman," and its marketing got a more comic, punk vibe that clicked with fans. But the film was derided as a mess by critics and others questioned the movie's PG-13 rating considering its high degree of violence.

Audiences liked it better. Opening weekend crowds gave it a B-plus on CinemaScore.

The elephant in the room is that the reviews were harsh," Goldstein said. "Clearly there's disconnect between audiences and critics."

But in franchise building, leaving fans thirsting for more is nearly as important as box office. In that regard, the jury remains out on "Suicide Squad." The coming weeks will show if crowds still materialize or quickly dissipate as they did for "Batman v Superman." The film also opened with $132 million internationally, where it will likely go without a release in China, the world's second-largest movie market.

Warner Bros., with years of DC films in the works, has a lot riding on its comic movie rival to Marvel. Next up is Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" in June.

"You can't put reviews in the bank. You can put money in the bank," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "The long-term success of any movie is predicated on positive sentiment from the fans. For any movie, that's the most important aspect."

Warners could on Sunday celebrate crossing $1 billion in 2016 domestic revenue, a mark it has achieved 16 years straight. The "Suicide Squad" debut also gave Smith, long one of the movies' top draws, the biggest opening of his career. (Second is 2007's "I Am Legend" with $77.2 million.)

The top five for the weekend box office was otherwise filled with holdovers. The Matt Damon spy sequel "Jason Bourne" grossed $22.7 million in its second weekend. It's made $103.4 million in two weeks for Universal. SXT Entertainment's "Bad Moms" also continued solid business with $14.2 million in its second week, bringing the cumulative gross for the comedy to $51 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Suicide Squad**," $135.1 million ($132 million international).
2. "**Jason Bourne**," $22.7 million.
3. "**Bad Moms**," $14.2 million.
4. "**The Secret Life of Pets**," $11.6 million.
5. "**Star Trek Beyond**," $10.2 million.
6. "**Nine Lives**," $6.5 million.
7. "**Lights Out**," $6 million.
8. "**Nerve**," $4.9 million.
9. "**Ghostbusters**," $4.8 million.
10. "**Ice Age: Collision Course**," $4.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "**Suicide Squad**," $132 million.
2. "**The Secret Life of Pets**," $68.6 million.
3. "**Time Raiders**," 64.6 million.
4. "**Jason Bourne**," $20.9 million.
5. "**Finding Dory**," $11.5 million.
6. "**Ice Age: Collision Course**," $11.5 million.
7. "**The Last Princess**," $10 million.
8. "**Sweet Sixteen**," $10 million.
9. "**Operation Chromite**," $9.5 million.
10. "**The Legend of Tarzan**," $8.1 million.

New movie to explore bizarre hunt for the Boston Strangler

BOSTON (AP)—It took a half-century for DNA sleuthing to finger Albert DeSalvo as the Boston Strangler. Now a new movie is revisiting one of America's most notorious serial killer cases and the bizarre involvement of a man who claimed psychic powers to help police investigate.

"Stranglehold" will tell the story of the Boston Strangler Task Force—a special unit assembled by the Massachusetts attorney general's office to capture the man behind nearly a dozen unsolved murders of women between 1962 and 1964.

Writer-director Barry L. Levy grew up hearing about the Strangler as a child in suburban Newton and Natick. A news article about Peter Hurkos, the enigmatic Dutch-born psychic who helped investigators search for clues, rekindled his interest.

"The Strangler was that story that, when you were a kid, everyone heard," Levy told The Associated Press. "Ever since I knew I wanted to be a director, I knew this is what I wanted to do."

It's the latest in a series of film projects focusing on high-profile Boston crimes. Last year's "Black Mass" told the story of notorious gangster James "Whitey" Bulger. Mark Wahlberg's "Patriots Day," about the Boston Marathon bombings, opens Dec. 21 in Boston and nationwide in January; and a 2017 release is planned for "Stronger," with Jake Gyllenhaal playing marathon bombing victim Jeff Bauman.

DeSalvo, a factory worker imprisoned on unrelated charges, admitted to killing 11 women in the Boston area during that period, but he later recanted and was never charged with the murders. He was stabbed to death in prison in 1973, and his role wasn't clear until 2013, when DNA tests confirmed he killed Mary Sullivan—the last of the victims—and likely was responsible for the deaths of the other victims.

The Strangler's victims, who ranged in age from 19 to 67, were sexually assaulted and killed—crimes that terrorized the region and grabbed national headlines.

Casting is underway for "Stranglehold," which marks Levy's directorial debut. Levy was a screenwriter on 2008's "Vantage Point," about an attempt to assassinate the U.S. president in Spain, and 2013's "Paranoia," a corporate espionage thriller.

Levy isn't divulging many details, but Hurkos—who claimed he became psychic in 1941 after falling from a ladder and suffering a brain injury—figures prominently in the script. Hurkos' contributions to the investigation were dubious at best: At one point he was arrested for impersonating a police detective and harassing a potential witness.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 1967 black and white file photo, the crowd jeers self-confessed Boston Strangler Albert DeSalvo, lower left, as he is led outside the Lynn, Mass. police station.

Levy said he hopes to film in Boston as early as this winter to give the movie the grit and authenticity it needs. Los Angeles-based Broken Road Productions is producing the film. A release date hasn't been set.

Despite the DNA testing that closed the case, victims' families still wonder if DeSalvo really committed all the murders or whether there were copycats.

Hurkos died in 1988, still convinced another man was the killer.

"It's my opinion, having studied the case extensively, that it wasn't the work of just one killer," said bestselling author Casey Sherman, a nephew of Mary Sullivan who wrote a book about her, "A Rose for Mary."

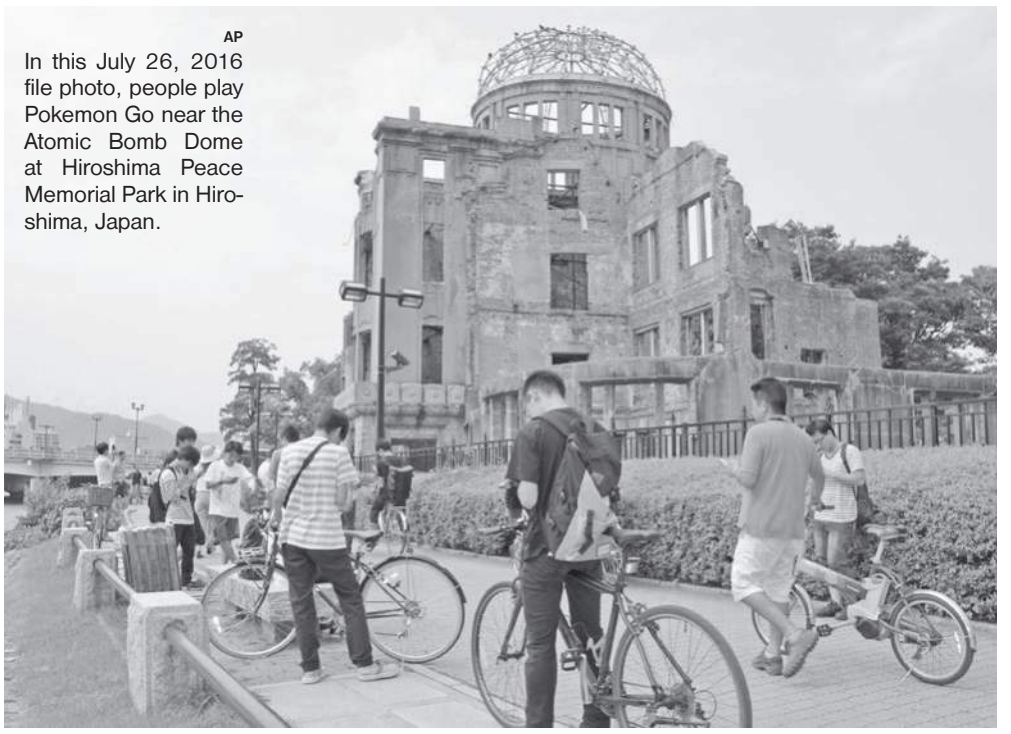
"Anything that creates conversation and discussion on the case is a good thing," he said. "Movies can do something that books can't. They can make that emotional connection to the viewer."

No more 'Pokemon Go' at Hiroshima atomic bomb memorial

TOKYO (AP)—It was a bit touch and go for Hiroshima officials, but the atomic bomb memorial park in the western Japanese city is now Pokemon No.

The city had asked the developer of the popular "Pokemon Go" smartphone game to remove the creatures and sites that appeared in the park by last weekend, when a solemn annual ceremony was held to mark the anniversary of the atomic bombing that killed 140,000 people in the final days of World War II.

The "Pokestops" and gyms, and the clumps of players that they attract, were gone by last Thursday, but the monsters that gamers try to catch were still popping up. The city sent an email inquiry to game developer Niantic, and got a response at 1:56 a.m. Saturday, just six hours before the start of the ceremony.



AP

In this July 26, 2016 file photo, people play Pokemon Go near the Atomic Bomb Dome at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan.

"We were so relieved," city official Tatsuya Sumida said. "We were worried if those 'Pokemon' were really going to go away in time."

He said city officials expect the monsters will stay away from the park permanently.

"We consider the park a sacred place where we pray for the victims of the atomic bombings," he said.

Ricci Martin, son of Dean, dies at 62

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricci Martin, the musician son of entertainment legend Dean Martin, has died. He was 62.

Martin died Wednesday at his home in Utah, his family announced Saturday. A cause of death has not been determined.

The youngest son of Dean Martin, Ricci Martin became an entertainer, himself. In the 1990s, he joined the band Dino, taking the place of his late brother Dean Paul Martin. Martin later performed a touring tribute show to his father, singing his hits and telling stories.

In 2002, Martin wrote a memoir, "That's Amore," about growing up in Beverly Hills, California, as a member of the famous family.

Martin is survived by three daughters, Pepper, Montana and Rio; his mother, Jeanne Martin; his older brother, Craig; and four sisters, Gail, Deana, Gina and Sasha.

NBC swim commentator defends comments criticized as sexist

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBC commentator criticized for calling the coach and husband of Hungarian swimmer Katinka Hosszu "the guy responsible" for her turnaround said Sunday it is "impossible" to tell Hosszu's story without crediting him.

But after some online critics suggested Dan Hicks' commentary on Saturday's telecast was sexist, he said that "with live TV, there are often times you look back and wished you had said things differently."

"You did it—not your husband" was among the social media messages posted following NBC's coverage of the 400-meter individual medley. Hosszu won the gold medal in a rout, shaving two seconds off the world record.

Hicks said he was painting as accurate a picture as he could of Hosszu and Shane Tusup's relationship. The swimmer has told him that she credits her American-born husband for improving her strength training, intensity and confidence, which was shattered when she lost the same event four years ago, he said.

AP

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu and her husband and coach Shane Tusup after a heat of the women's 100-meter backstroke during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"It is impossible to tell Katinka's story accurately without giving appropriate credit to Shane, and that's what I was trying to do," Hicks said.

Hicks made reference to Tusup as NBC's cameras caught video of him shouting and cheering from the stands after Hosszu's win. In a replay shortly after, NBC showed a portion of the race in a split screen with pictures of the demonstrative Tusup.

"It was an amazing experience to share this moment with someone who I love," Hosszu said in Rio.

Hicks said on the air that Tusup and his influence on his wife were no secret to people in the swimming community.

"It can be very, very harsh," Hicks said on Saturday's broadcast. "In fact, it's been a little disturbing to some of the other swimmers who have observed it."

While Hosszu has acknowledged the tough love, she said he's warm and fuzzy when it's husband-and-wife time, Hicks said.

"But he has turned her into a tiger in the pool," Hicks said.

Woody Allen's Amazon series gets fall debut date, title

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Woody Allen's first small-screen series will debut on Amazon this fall.

The streaming service announced the Sept. 30 debut date as well as the title for Allen's project: "Crisis in Six Scenes." The comedy, set during the upheaval of the 1960s, focuses on a suburban family dealing with the chaos brought by a visitor. The cast includes Allen, Miley Cyrus and Elaine May.

It's one of several new comedies to be released this fall, Amazon said Sunday, beginning with comedian Tig Notaro's "One Mississippi," inspired by events in her life and debuting Sept. 9. It will be followed on Sept. 16 by playwright Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Fleabag," about modern life in London and starring and written by her.

AP

In this Wednesday, May 11, 2016, file photo, director Woody Allen poses for photographers during a photo call for the film Cafe Society, at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.

Pediatrician's bedside manner rubs mother the wrong way

DEAR ABBY: I recently took my 5-year-old, "Ralphie," to his pediatrician. While we were waiting to see the doctor, Ralphie played a game on my phone. Then the doctor knocked on the door, entered, said "hi" and smiled. He called my son's name and immediately, without any prompts to get Ralphie's attention, proceeded to take the phone from my son's hand.

You don't simply take things from people's hands to get their attention. Ralphie may be a child, but he is also a person. I would feel different if, after the doctor had tried to get his attention, my son had ignored him.

I understand Ralphie had to get ready to pay attention and follow instructions. If he hadn't, I would have removed the phone myself. This doctor is very competent and has seen Ralphie since the day he was born. He has always been dry and a bit brusque.

How do I tell the doctor that I find what he did unacceptable without risking the relationship? I'm not very assertive. The reason I don't say anything most of the time is because I become angry very easily, and while I understand there are ways to say things, I simply do not possess those skills. My emotions are so strong that I can't find a way of being assertive without saying something rude. What can I do?

LAURA IN NEW YORK

DEAR LAURA: Ideally, YOU should have asked your son to return your cellphone when you heard the doctor enter. Write him a letter and tell him you were "taken aback" that he would take something from your boy without asking because what happened seemed to you to be disrespectful. Put the letter aside for three days before sending it to be sure your message wasn't written in the heat of anger. You are entitled to express your opinion. And if the doctor's "brusque" manner is off-putting, find another pediatrician.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl and I have a job as a barista. I have an uncle who keeps asking to borrow money from me. He always promises he will pay me back, but he was in prison and he's struggling to find a job. He never does repay me, which wouldn't bother me if it were small amounts, but I'm trying to save for a car and college, and he always asks for amounts over $50.

Several adults are telling me he takes advantage of me. I don't know if I should continue to loan him money or tell him no. If I have to refuse him, it will be hard because I have a hard time saying no to others. I don't know what to do anymore. Any advice would be great.

PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

DEAR P2P: You are a sweet and generous girl, but you are allowing yourself to be taken advantage of. Part of growing up is learning to stand up for yourself. The next time your uncle asks you for money, tell him that you'll CONSIDER loaning him more after he has repaid you the money he has already borrowed. To do that isn't "mean"; it is intelligent.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

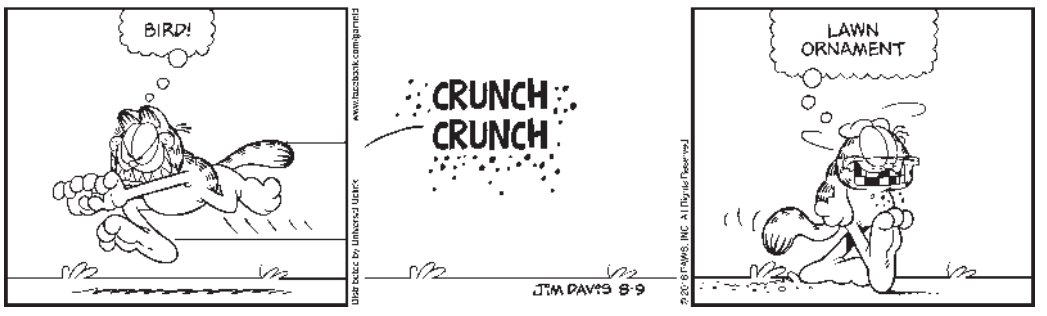
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, HOBBES!
GOOD HEAVENS, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
MOM SAID IF I KEEP MAKING THIS FACE, IT WILL FREEZE LIKE THIS FOREVER!
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
IT'S WORTH A TRY..
I'LL BET MY FEATURES ARE HARDENING ALREADY.
I ALWAYS LIKED GARGOYLES.

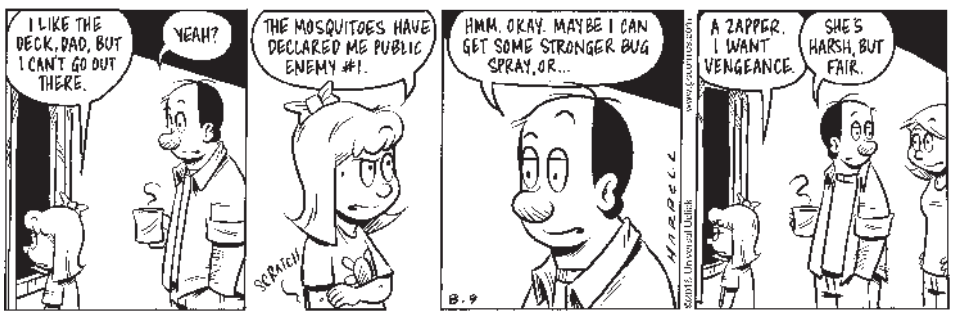
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I LIKE THE DECK, DAD, BUT I CAN'T GO OUT THERE.
YEAH?
THE MOSQUITOES HAVE DECLARED ME PUBLIC ENEMY #1.
SCRATCH
HMM. OKAY. MAYBE I CAN GET SOME STRONGER BUG SPRAY, OR...
A ZAPPER. I WANT VENGEANCE.
SHE'S HARSH, BUT FAIR.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

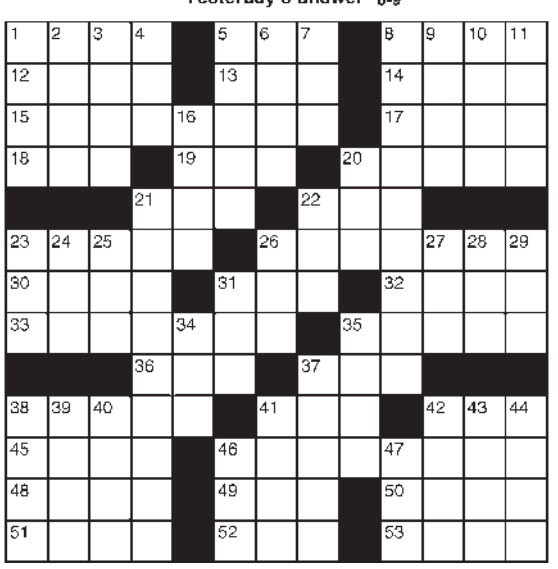
ACROSS
1 Mideast strip
5 Bashful
8 Notoriety
12 Israeli airline
13 Secreted
14 Apple tablet
15 Bowling game
17 Dweeb
18 Tours season
19 Conclusion
20 Lenient treatment
21 Spring month
22 Soda
23 Ganges garments
26 "Walden" writer
30 "So be it"
31 Started
32 Misfortunes
33 Coin's front side
35 Agra's land
36 Nourished
37 DDE predecessor
38 Tack on
41 Fannie —
42 Some coll. degrees
45 Only
46 Sommelier's organizer
48 MP's quarry
49 Noah's boat
50 Follow orders
51 Begged
52 Two, in Toledo
53 Existed

DOWN
1 Heredity unit
2 Landed
3 Billy of "Titanic"
4 Pub order
5 Lustrous
6 Posterior
7 QB's stats
8 Contract details written in small type
9 Unoriginal one
10 Artist Chagall
11 Vortex
16 Carrots' mates
20 Cattle call
21 Treacherous tract
22 Third degree?
23 — Paulo
24 Embassy VIP
25 Gun the engine
26 Golf prop
27 Days of yore
28 Frazier foe
29 Can. neighbor
31 Leary's drug
34 Mardi Gras VIP
35 "Got it"
37 Gump portrayer
38 Now, in a memo
39 Poultry
40 Drifting ice
41 Painter Joan
42 Innocent one
43 Computer brand
44 Terrier type
46 Bankroll
47 Squabble

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	I	P			W	A	N		O	P	E	C
R	O	O	F		A	I	F		J	T	A	H
O	N	F	I		D	O	I		T	A	R	O
F	E	T	I	D		T	R		O			
			E	L	M		L	N	F	O	L	D
D	A	I	S	I	E	S		A	I	H	I	A
E	H	S	T		S	P	A		H	E	E	D
A	L	P	H	A		F	I	N	E	S	S	E
D	O	Y	E	N	S		D	E	L			
			C	A	T	E		C	O	P	T	E
T	A	R	O		O	V	A		C	B	I	S
C	L	I	O		V	I	M		P	I	N	A
C	I	O	P		F	I	S			S	T	U

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Kendrick, 31; Tyson Gay, 34; Hoda Kotb, 52; Gillian Anderson, 48.

Happy Birthday: A leap of faith will bring about improvements. Hard work and dynamic actions on your part will encourage new beginnings. Express your views, visions and goals. The impressions you make will help you decipher who will help you and who is hanging around to watch. Your finesse and intelligence will be put to the test. Show others what you have to offer. Your numbers are 4, 13, 24, 33, 36, 39, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't leave anything to chance. Focus on what's important to you and make it happen. Take care of any situation that may pose a problem for you. Financial stability will result from an unexpected source. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't complain when you should be taking advantage of what's available to you. Romance is featured, and getting out and socializing will encourage you to show off what you have to offer. Share your plans with others. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The less time spent discussing your plans, the easier it will be to get things done. Arguments can be avoided if you remove yourself from a bad situation. Get involved in something that will let you use your imagination and creativity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Express your thoughts, but don't argue with someone who doesn't share your opinions. Listen to suggestions and something will spark an idea that can help you flush out any problems you might face. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Show sensitivity when dealing with personal matters. Compromise now and you will get something you want later. Putting more effort into an activity, event or hobby you enjoy will pay off in an unexpected fashion. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do what's best for you. Don't allow anyone to take advantage of your need to help others. It may be best to take a moment to justify what you are doing and why. It's time to spend more time fulfilling your needs. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stand up for yourself. Don't allow anyone to talk you into doing things that you don't want to do. You need time to think about your personal life and the changes you need to make in order to find happiness. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Before you make any sudden moves, consider your feelings as well as those of others. It's important to finish what you start and to choose your projects based on what brings you the most joy. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give in to someone who is trying to take advantage of you or coax you into doing something inadvisable. Look for a way that you can help others without jeopardizing your position, reputation or your health. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have plenty of options and can take advantage of more than one. Don't limit what you can do just because someone else doubts you. Your ability to multi-task will separate you from everyone else. Enjoy the ride. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to an emotional trick geared to derail your plans. Stick to what you want to accomplish and don't make concessions for someone who is only interested in their own needs. Take ownership of what you do. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): State your desires and make plans to follow through. A money matter can be resolved if you are heartfelt in your pitch for help or expansion. Don't limit what you plan to do because someone doesn't believe in you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, commanding and attentive. You are intense and powerful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6		7			
	4						1	
	7		4	5	3		2	
2		4				1		3
		9		4		7		
7		3				6		8
	3		5	7	9		8	
	9						6	
			2		1			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	4	5	9	2	8	7	1
7	1	5	3	4	8	2	6	9
2	9	8	6	7	1	3	5	4
3	5	6	7	2	4	1	9	8
8	4	1	9	5	6	7	2	3
9	2	7	8	1	3	6	4	5
1	7	9	2	8	5	4	3	6
4	6	2	1	3	9	5	8	7
5	8	3	4	6	7	9	1	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HARPISTS Solution: 9 letters

R	K	T	H	P	I	L	L	A	R	R	E	V	E	L
E	E	U	C	O	E	A	R	T	S	E	H	C	R	O
D	N	G	T	A	D	R	N	I	E	G	D	I	R	B
L	N	T	I	E	R	E	F	S	A	K	N	E	E	W
U	E	A	P	L	W	L	Z	O	G	L	A	D	I	H
O	R	C	J	S	L	K	O	L	R	R	F	R	P	G
H	L	M	O	R	C	O	W	S	A	M	E	O	N	C
S	Y	M	A	E	P	M	H	O	N	S	A	I	O	I
A	P	N	N	R	E	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	R	R	N	E	T
N	G	R	N	T	C	G	B	T	L	T	E	G	C	L
E	O	P	A	I	N	O	T	E	S	U	O	D	S	E
E	T	L	H	H	D	I	A	D	J	U	S	T	O	C
R	H	A	C	Y	K	I	L	O	Z	Z	A	R	A	M
O	I	Y	R	C	A	M	I	L	L	E	N	A	U	J
L	C	J	A	M	E	T	T	I	N	N	E	K	C	M

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/9

Adjust, Arch, Base, Body, Bow, Bridge, Camille, Carlos, Catgut, Celtic, Foot, Gothic, Harp, Hidalgo, Holliger, Jamet, Joanna, Juan, Kennerly, Kitt, Knee, Lever, Loreena, Marazzoli, Marco, McKennitt, Metal, Modern, Neck, Newsom, Notes, Orchestra, Pedal, Performance, Pierre, Pillar, Pitch, Play, Range, Salzedo, Shoulder, Sit, String, Ursula, Wires

Yesterday's Answer: King

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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---

1 Piano teacher: $1,200-$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com.

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Tel. # 287-9968/email-lanqiangl@hotmail.com

Faustina T. Legaspi
P.O. Box 500755
Saipan, MP 96950
288-7373 / 788-4928

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF Glory Nina Legaspi An Incompetent	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0399
by	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Faustina T. Legaspi Petitioner	)	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petitioner for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Faustina Legaspi, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 18th day of August, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41 Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby gives notice that a Parole Revocation Hearing is scheduled for August 18, 2016 (Thursday), at 10:00a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office Conference Room, House NO. 1216, located at Capital Hill, Saipan.

The following individual (s) will appear before the Board of Parole:

I.	**Preliminary Matters**			
	1.	Call to order		
	2.	Roll Call		
	3.	Presence of Quorum		
II.	**Consent Items**			
	1.	Adoption of Agenda		
III.	**Parole Revocation**		**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1.	Palacios, Robert Jake	14-006	13-0011A
IV.	**Miscellaneous**			
	1.	Parole Hearing Eligibility List		
	2.	Schedule of Next Parole Hearing		
	3.	Other Matters, if any		
V.	**Adjournment**			

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Building Cleaner (1)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: Detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills: Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina: Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-CHCC/KCHC-002

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 02, 2016 **TIME: 9:00 AM**

"FOR GROUNDKEEPING SERVICES AT KAGMAN COMMUNITY CENTER"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSALS, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

FREE
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Q&A: DOUGLAS SCHMIDT JR.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL IS ALIVE AND KICKING
PIXLEY'S LIFELONG LOVE FOR RUNNING
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Furyk sets PGA Tour record at Travelers

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Jim Furyk has a place in PGA Tour history all to himself with a new magic number in golf.

Three years after Furyk became the sixth player on tour with a 59, he took it even lower Sunday in the Travelers Championship with a 12-under 58.

The 46-year-old American bounced in an eagle from 135 yards on his third hole, ran off seven straight birdies around the turn and picked up his final birdie on the 16th hole with a putt from just inside 24 feet. He rolled in a short par putt on the final hole at TPC River Highlands, thrust his arms in the air and waved his cap to salute thousands of fans who had rushed to the amphitheater around the 18th green to catch a stunning slice of history.

"There's a lot of rounds by a lot of great players ahead of me that have never reached 58, so to hold that record alone right now, on the PGA Tour at least ... is phenomenal," Furyk said. "To have a little, small place in history is something you dream of."

And it could have been even lower.

Furyk reached 11 under on the par-70 course with his seventh straight birdie at No. 12. He missed a 12-foot birdie attempt on the 14th hole, and after nearly driving the par-4 15th, his 8-foot birdie putt lipped out.

It might be one of the best rounds hardly anyone saw.

Furyk, who started the final round 16 shots out of the lead, had less than a dozen fans watching when he teed off at 8:41 a.m. He finished his round before Golf Channel coverage began.

The news traveled far.

"Amazing, eh?" Justin Rose said from the practice range at the Olympic Golf Course in Rio de Janeiro. "Amazing that he did it without birdieing the 13th (par 5) and 15th. Pretty cool."

It might not have happened if Furyk had not gone this road before. He shot a 59 at Conway Farms in the second round of the 2013 BMW Championship with a bogey on his card.

"I guess had I never shot 59 before, I probably would have been thinking 59, the barrier," he said. "But the fact that I did it three years ago, you know, in the back of my mind I've got 11-under through 12; I've got six holes to play. If I play them under par, I'm going to break another barrier."

Ryo Ishikawa shot a 58 in The Crowns on the Japan Golf Tour in 2010. Shigeki Maruyama shot a 58 in U.S. Open sectional qualifying in 2000. And just last week, Stephan Jaeger posted a 58 on the Web.com Tour in the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.

Furyk is the only player with sub-60 rounds twice. And both times, he had to settle for history, not a trophy. He was third at the 2013 BMW Championship and finished in a tie for fifth place Sunday, three shots behind champion Russell Knox.

AP

Jim Furyk watches his approach shot on the 18th hole on his way to shooting a PGA record 58 during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016.

"I dominated him, I guarantee he very quickly would change places with me," Knox joked after shooting a final round 68.

The most pressure Furyk felt Sunday was after his final birdie. He still had two par 4s to navigate.

He acknowledged guiding the ball with his drive on 17, where he had hit the water earlier in the week. His approach was 40 feet beyond the flag, but he two-putted for par by making a 4-footer.

His drive on 18 hit the right side of the fairway and his approach left him 29 feet to the right and below the hole. He says the attempt for birdie felt good, but it slid by on the right about 2 feet past the hole. That's when Furyk knew he had the record.

"It's nice when the second ones are mindless," he said.

Furyk was the most recent PGA Tour player with a 59 at Conway Farms.

The others were Al Geiberger at the 1977 Memphis Classic; Chip Beck at the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational; David Duval at the 1999 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic; Paul Goydos at the 2010 John Deere Classic and Stuart Appleby at the 2010 Greenbrier Classic.

Furyk, whose best finish at the Travelers was fourth place in 2000, finished at 11-under 269. He said he spent a lot of Saturday night talking to his father and sending him video of his swing, because he had been playing so poorly. He decided he might have been swing too hard after playing the PGA Championship last week at Baltusrol, a course that measured 7, 428 yards for a par 70.

He made an adjustment. It worked.

Now he not only has a 59 on his resume, he has a 58.

"No one else can say they've done that out here on the PGA Tour," he said. "It's really special."

Hall of Fame game canceled due to poor field conditions

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—An emotional and invigorating Hall of Fame weekend came to a grinding halt Sunday night when the Packers-Colts game was canceled because of poor field conditions.

One day after Brett Favre led the eight-member class of 2016 into the hall, its president, David Baker announced the cancellation after discussing problems with the turf with both teams. He said it was a safety issue and that all fans would be fully refunded for ticket purchases, which will cost the hall several million dollars.

"This is a hard decision, but we know it is the right decision," Baker said. "In some respects a hard decision because of the impact it has. This is an important game to the people in Canton."

The NFL and NFL Players Association said in a statement: "We are very disappointed for our fans, but player safety is our primary concern, and as a result, we could not play an NFL game on this field tonight."

Baker noted that the field was new and had been approved when inspected after its first installation. But paint congealed at midfield and in the end zone, hardening those areas. Workers used a variety of equipment to smooth the artificial surface. Rubber pellets used in the turf came loose and were scattered in several spots and needed to be removed, as well.

"We know a lot of you came a long way," Baker told the crowd, which booed when his name was announced. "Here at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, we have the greatest respect for players and for player safety. As a result of some painting on the field today, some questions arose."

Team physicians also were consulted.

"We thought we would be able to remediate it by delaying the game for as much as an hour," Baker added. "But in the end, if it's remotely close to unsafe, we conferred with the league, we think the best thing to do is respect the safety of the players. It's the only thing to do.

"I can tell you, I had a son who played in this league. If it happened with him on the field, I would have wanted someone to make the same decision."

This was not the first cancellation of an NFL exhibition game—the Hall of Game contest was not played in 2011 because of the lockout—but it was the most high-profile preseason match to be called off.

In 2001, a new artificial surface at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium was deemed too dangerous for the Eagles to play the Ravens.

Both teams walked onto the field at 8 p.m., moments before the game would have kicked off, and the players saluted the crowd. When the hall's class of 2016 was introduced the stands remained relatively full for that. But then many fans departed the stadium even though the halftime show featuring Lee Greenwood was held.

Colts coach Chuck Pagano said he was disappointed but understood the cancellation. He was looking to "find out about a lot of these young players."

Packers coach Mike McCarthy saluted the many Packers fans who came to Canton to see Favre inducted into the hall.

"We really were looking forward to performing tonight," McCarthy said. "You get tired of practicing against yourself and you get to play a real game."

Many of the thousands of Packers fans in Canton returned Sunday to Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. They sat watching highlights of Favre's speech and of Friday night's concert featuring Tim McGraw before they were told about the game's cancellation.

Also inducted were Tony Dungy, Marvin Harrison, Orlando Pace, Kevin Greene, Ken Stabler, Dick Stanfel and Ed DeBartolo Jr.

Meanwhile, it took only one free agent visit to NFC south rival Tampa Bay to convince defensive end Charles Johnson of what he'd known all along -- he only wanted to play for the Carolina Panthers.

His heart was in Carolina, and that was never going to change.

It's why the 30-year-old Johnson took an $8 million pay cut this offseason to return for his 10th season with the defending NFC champion Panthers and a chance to "chase that (Super Bowl) ring."

"All I know is Carolina. All I have wanted to know is Carolina," said Johnson, who was selected in the third round of the 2007 NFL draft by the Panthers. "It's kind of hard to leave something that you have invested so much in. The sky is the limit for this team. I want to help take this team to where we need to be."

Being a business owner himself—Johnson plans to open a restaurant this fall in Charlotte, North Carolina—he understands the team's decision to release him in March after he tallied just one sack in 2015 and spent seven games on short-term injured reserve with a hamstring injury. Johnson was set to make $11 million in 2016, so he saw the move coming.

Suzuki gets 3,000th career hit in Marlins win over Rockies

DENVER (AP)—Ichiro Suzuki tripled off the wall for his 3,000th hit in the major leagues, becoming the 30th player to reach the milestone as the Miami Marlins beat the Colorado Rockies 10-7 Sunday.

The 42-year-old Suzuki got his big hit in the seventh inning. He became the first player born in Japan to reach 3,000, and joined Paul Molitor as the only players to hit the mark with a triple.

Giancarlo Stanton hit his 24th homer and Christian Yelich and Mathis had three hits and three RBI each for the Marlins. Nolan Arenado homered twice and drove in five runs for Colorado. Arenado leads the NL in home runs (29) and RBI (87).

Adam Conley (8-6) allowed six runs in five innings. Fernando Rodney worked the ninth for his first save since coming to Miami on June 30 and 18th overall.

Jon Gray (8-5) was roughed up for eight runs on 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Suzuki was hitless in his first three at-bats of the game before he tagged Chris Rusin.

Suzuki launched a long drive to right field that carried just beyond the reach of leaping Gerardo Parra, and breezed into third standing up.

Suzuki is in his 16th season in the majors. He had 1,278 hits while playing nine years in Japan before becoming the American League Rookie of the Year and MVP with Seattle in 2001.

AP

Miami Marlins pinch-hitter Ichiro Suzuki connects for his 3,000th career hit, a triple, off Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Jordan Lyles in the eighth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016, in Denver.

A-Rod to play final game with Yankees on Friday

NEW YORK (AP)—Ready or not, Alex Rodriguez will play his final game in pinstripes this week.

One of the most prolific hitters and polarizing figures in baseball history, the slumping slugger plans to take his final turn at-bat with the New York Yankees on Friday night and then become a special adviser and instructor with the team next year.

A-Rod and the club made the announcement before Sunday's 3-2 victory over Cleveland.

"This is a tough day. I love this game and I love this team," he said, often choking up. "And today I'm saying goodbye to both."

The 41-year-old Rodriguez, who sat out the 2014 season while serving a performance-enhancing drug suspension, will play against Tampa Bay at Yankee Stadium and then be released following Friday's game. New York will pay him the remainder of the approximately $27 million he's owed as part of his $275 million, 10-year contract.

Rodriguez said the agreement arose out of conversations over the past few days with Yankees Managing General Partner Hal Steinbrenner. The two met face-to-face more than once, and A-Rod said he asked for one more chance to play in front of a New York crowd.

Relegated to little more than a spare part lately, the three-time AL MVP acknowledged "the last four weeks have not been fun."

"It's been very painful and embarrassing to sit on the bench. It's been awkward," Rodriguez explained. "So from that sense I'm very happy that we found this solution."

But he made it clear he still thinks he could contribute on the field.

"Of course, I think I can play baseball. You always think you have one more hit in you, or help the team win one more game, for sure," said Rodriguez, who is four home runs shy of 700. "That wasn't in the cards. That was the Yankees' decision and I'm at peace with it."

A news release issued by the club indicated Rodriguez will be released after "his final major league game" to sign a contract that gives him a job working with minor leaguers throughout the Yankees' farm system. He will report directly to Steinbrenner, and the deal runs through Dec. 31, 2017.

A-Rod said he'll go home to Miami following Friday's game, and he thought his new duties would begin in spring training. He thanked the Steinbrenner family for the opportunity to stay in baseball.

General manager Brian Cashman acknowledged that Rodriguez has a right to change his mind and pursue any potential opportunity. And for his part, Rodriguez never used the word "retire."

So, if another team offered him a chance to play, would he consider it?

"You know, when Hal told me, I just told him: 'Give me a few days. I need to kind of think on this, sleep on it.' I have not thought past the pinstripes, and my horizon is Friday," he said.

Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said when Rodriguez makes decisions, "they're pretty much final."

"He played a long time, since he was 18 years old," Sabathia said. "I know he has bigger goals and bigger dreams to do different things."

Yankees 3, Indians 2

In New York, Masahiro Tanaka rebounded from two rocky outings, Didi Gregorius homered and New York held off Cleveland after announcing that Alex Rodriguez will play his final game in pinstripes this week.

Mark Teixeira, two days since disclosing his own plans to retire at the end of the season, hit an RBI double and dove toward first base to complete a crucial play on defense.

Orioles 10, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Manny Machado became the second player in major league history to homer in the first, second and third innings, driving in a career-high seven runs in a victory over Chicago.

Machado hit a two-run homer in the first and a three-run shot in the second off James Shields (5-14). Shields allowed four homers while getting four outs.

Cubs 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Kyle Hendricks pitched into the eighth inning for his fifth win since June and Chicago beat Oakland to complete a three-game sweep.

Kris Bryant and Jorge Soler homered off A's starter Sean Manaea (3-7). Bryant's home run was his 27th this season, one more than the two-time All-Star had in 2015 when he was the NL's rookie of the year.

Nationals 1, Giants 0

In Washington, Tanner Roark and the Washington bullpen outdueled Madison Bumgarner, and Wilson Ramos homered to lift the Nationals over San Francisco in a matchup of NL division leaders.

Washington won twice in the three-game series. Last weekend, the Giants took two of three at home.

Bumgarner (10-7) gave up just two hits, including Ramos' 18th homer in the seventh inning.

Dodgers 8, Red Sox 5

In Los Angeles, Rob Segedin set a Dodgers record with four RBI in his major league debut, Adrian Gonzalez hit his 300th career home run and the Dodgers beat Boston.

With the bases loaded and one out in the fourth, Segedin hit a 2-0 pitch from David Price (9-8) over center fielder Mookie Betts' head for a two-run double, his first big league hit in his second at-bat.

Mets 3, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Neil Walker hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the top of the ninth, and New York beat Detroit to avoid a series sweep.

The Mets were victimized by some bad luck when the Tigers tied it with back-to-back infield singles in the seventh, but after escaping the eighth thanks to a Detroit baserunning blunder, New York retook the lead when Walker went deep off Francisco Rodriguez (1-2).

Rangers 5, Astros 3, 11 innings

In Houston, Ian Desmond hit a tiebreaking single in the 11th inning and Texas beat Houston for the 11th time in 13 meetings this season.

Texas took two of three in the weekend series and extended its AL West lead to 7 1/2 games over the Astros. Houston went 2-5 on its and has lost eight of its last 10 games.

Twins 6, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Miguel Sano homered twice and drove in four runs and Minnesota beat Tampa Bay to take two of three in the series between the teams with the AL's worst records.

Sano put the Twins up 3-1 on a three-run shot off Matt Andriese (6-3) in the third and added a solo drive during the ninth against Ryan Garton.

Phillies 6, Padres 5

In San Diego, Pinch-hitter Tommy Joseph's had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning, and Philadelphia turned the first triple play in Petco Park.

Rookie shortstop Jose Rondon's throwing error on Cesar Hernandez's grounder leading off the seventh against Brad Hand (3-3) allowed the Phillies' hitter to reach second base safely. Hernandez scored the tiebreaking run two outs later on Joseph's single to left.

Braves 6, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Mike Foltynewicz worked six strong innings, and Nick Markakis and Erick Aybar had two RBI apiece to help Atlanta beat St. Louis.

Matt Kemp added two hits and an RBI for the Braves. They took two of three games from St. Louis, outscoring the Cardinals 19-8 the last two games.

Reds 7, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, major league steals leader Billy Hamilton swiped four bases, had three hits and scored three runs, leading Cincinnati past Pittsburgh.

Hamilton helped the Reds avoid a series sweep. The center fielder with 43 stolen bases this season also made a leaping, backhanded catch that drew applause from the Pittsburgh fans.

Mariners 3, Angels 1

In Seattle, James Paxton took a four-hitter into ninth inning before he was forced from the game after being hit on the left arm by a line drive, and Seattle beat Los Angeles.

Mike Freeman, making his Mariners debut after being called up earlier in the day from Triple-A Tacoma, had his first two major league hits, including an RBI single to cap a three-run fourth inning.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 1

In Kansas City, Yordano Ventura pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Kendrys Morales hit a grand slam, and Kansas City beat Toronto.

Ventura (7-9) was 0-5 in seven starts since a June 17 victory over Detroit. He limited the Blue Jays to one run and five singles in 6 2/3 innings, walking four and striking out four.

Diamondbacks 9, Brewers 3

In Phoenix, Jake Lamb and Phil Gosselin each hit two-run homers during a five-run fifth inning to help Arizona beat Milwaukee.

Lamb got his 24th homer for a 5-3 lead against starter Jimmy Nelson (6-11), and Gosselin delivered a pinch-hit homer off reliever Michael Blazek to make it 8-3. The Diamondbacks matched the single-inning club record for extra-base hits with five.

CNMI jr. tennis players leave for Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen members of the CNM Junior Tennis Team will leave for Fiji this Thursday to compete in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The group, which is composed of Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, Tony Kim, Sean Lee, Malika Miyawaki, Asia Raulerson, Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Marie Gregoire, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Michael Ren, and Vincent Tudela, will be suiting up for the North Pacific Team. Also on the elite squad are Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Tania Tan, who have been in Fiji since May after earning a summer scholarship program at the ITF/OTF training facility in Suva.

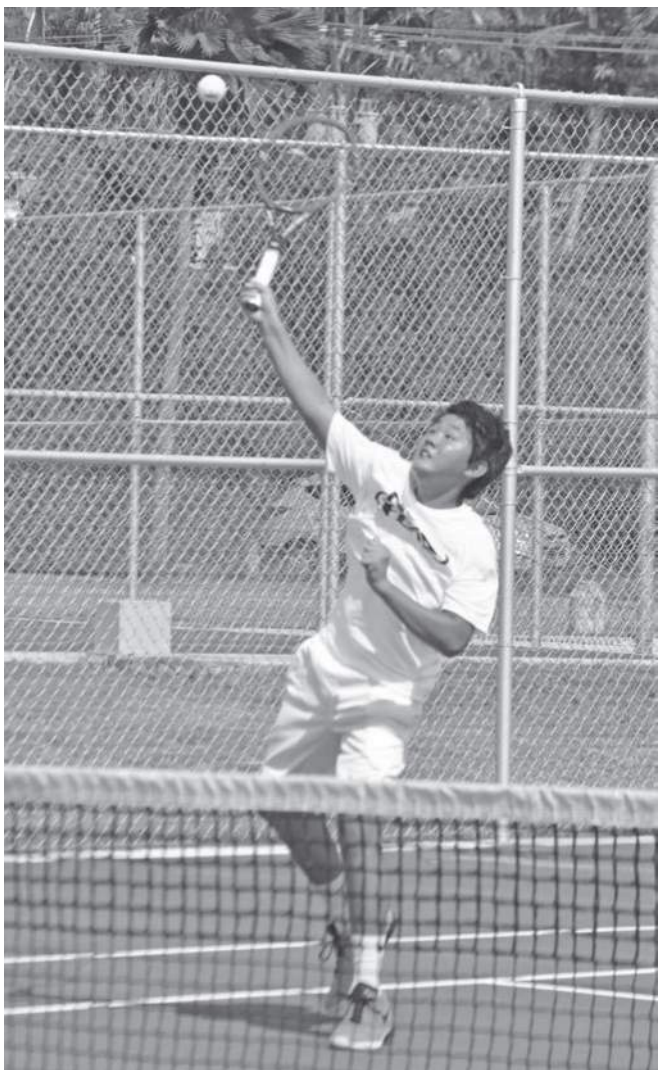
The Commonwealth bets will be challenging representatives of the west team made up of players from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and the east, which have Samoa, American Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga netters. The POJC will be held next week.

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race will call the shots for the North Pacific Team, which will also have players from Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The players are doing well in the training. I am sure we are going to have lots of Top 4 and finals appearances, while Carol is certainly the favorite in the girls U16 division," said Race, whose players will also compete in the U12 and U14 age groups.

Lee, the lone player in the Pacific to have won the U12, U14, and U16 singles titles, was unbeaten in last year's POJC, clinching the U16 singles crown after surviving Palau's Ayana Rengiil in a three-set finale, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Lee and company had a strong showing in last year's tournament in Fiji. Of the CNMI's 14 players in the 2015 edition of the annual competition, 10 made it to the singles quarterfinals, six in the semis, and two in the finals (Tan was the other finalist in the girls U14 singles). In the doubles, the Kaga siblings and Tan and Miyawaki marched into the finals, while Tudela (with FSM's Joab William), Lee (with Rengiil), and Sakano (with American's Samoa's Hanisi Ledua) got Final Four berths.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tony Kim is one of the 13 CNMI junior tennis players who will leave Saipan for Fiji this Thursday to compete in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Spike Lee trying to convince Allen to sign with Knicks

Ray Allen last played in the NBA in 2014 with the Miami Heat. He's 41, and he's a former 10-time All-Star with two NBA titles to his name. However, despite the fact that he hasn't played the last two seasons, and despite the fine career that he's had, Allen is thinking about making an NBA comeback. There have been previous reports of his representation reaching out to the Warriors, and Allen has also reportedly talked to the Celtics and Bucks about a possible return.

Now, NBA superfan and a longtime friend of the legendary three-point shooter Spike Lee is trying to convince Allen to sign with the New York Knicks. According to Allen, he and Lee have been texting about the future Hall of Famer potentially coming to New York, with Allen going so far as to say that the award-winning director has been "trying to recruit" him. Of course, Allen and Lee go way back, as Allen starred in one of Lee's best movies, He Got Game.

That being said, Allen may say it's not championship-or-bust if he returns—"I've been watching, seeing what teams have been doing and I've been waiting to see if the opportunity presented itself where I think I could fit," he said — but it would still be a surprise to see him sign with a team that may not even make the playoffs like New York. Allen will keep working on his possible return, Lee will keep trying to bring Allen to the Knicks, and while it seems unlikely, maybe Lee's work on the recruiting trail will pay off.

Meanwhile, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says the NBA's decision to move its All-Star Game from Charlotte because of a law limiting anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people was "grandstanding."

Christie made the remarks while co-hosting the WFAN "Boomer and Carton" morning radio show Friday.

The Republican governor asked if the NBA is going to evaluate every law in every state or just a certain law.

PHELPS

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time—3 minutes, 56.46 seconds— she let out an uncharacteristic scream and pumped her right fist. The 19-year-old crushed the mark of 3:58.37 that she set nearly two years ago on the Gold Coast of Australia, and had been chasing ever since.

In other results, another day, another world record for Britain's Adam Peaty at the Rio Olympics.

Peaty took gold in the men's 100-meter breaststroke Sunday night with a time of 57.13 seconds, shattering the mark of 57.55 he set one day earlier in the preliminaries.

Peaty cruisied away from Cameron va der Burgh of South Africa, the defending Olympic champion who took silver this time in 58.69.

The bronze went to Cody Miller of the United States, whose time of 58.87 held off teammate Kevin Cordes.

The crowd at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium went into frenzy at the sight of two Brazilians in the final. But Joao Gomes finished fifth and Felipe Franca was seventh.

Sarah Sjostrom of Sweden has broken her own world record in the women's 100-meter butterfly to take gold at the Rio Olympics.

Sjostrom led right from the start and touched in 55.48 seconds, breaking the mark of 55.64 she set at last year's world championships. She sat on the edge of the deck, pumping her arms in the air, and then appeared to be overcome by tears as she climbed to her feet.

This was her first Olympic medal, after she finished fourth in the 100 fly at the London Games four years ago, missing out on the bronze by just 23-hundredths of a second.

It was the fourth swimming world record of the Rio Games.

Penny Oleksiak of Canada took the silver in 56.46, edging out defending Olympic champion Dana Vollmer. The American, who had her first child last year, settled for the bronze this time in 56.63.

UPSETS: Juan Martin del Potro is back.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic was swept out of the Olympic men's singles tennis tournament in the first round Sunday by the 2009 U.S. Open champion 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2). Because of three left wrist surgeries, del Potro is ranked just 145th in the world. But when the Argentine is healthy and smacking his signature forehand around the court, his play is worthy of the gold medal match.

It was a raucous atmosphere in the last match of the night on center court, where del Potro fans chanted for him and Brazilians would try to drown out their rivals with cheers for Djokovic.

With the loss, Djokovic is still left seeking his first Olympic gold medal.

Andy Murray and his older brother Jamie exited in the first round of doubles at the Rio de Janeiro Games, making them 1/3 as a team at the Olympics.

The second-seeded British pair lost to Brazilians Thomaz Bellucci and Andre Sa 7-6 (6), 7-6 (14) in front of a loud partisan crowd Sunday night, hours after Andy won his opening singles match as the defending champion in that event.

The Murrays had their chances to extend the 2-hour match, holding five set points in the second tiebreaker, but failed to convert any.

The unseeded Brazilian duo needed seven match points to close the deal.

SABLAN

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Sablan went on to close the gap with Batallones as his third shot landed on the greens, while the latter's headed a bit far left to the fairways. The eventual champion then almost drilled a par with his ball nearly kissing the cup before he settled for the bogey. Batallones, on the other hand, made two short shots in his fourth and fifth putt before sinking the ball on his sixth attempt.

With the victory in the tiebreak, Sablan took the $500 top prize and a Royal Salute from sponsor Titan Imports. Batalones pocketed the $400 runner-up cash prize along with a bottle of Chivas 18YO.

Joining Sablan and Batallones in the Top 5 and getting recognition during the awards ceremony for the shortened tournament were Joseph Muna, Dong Kyu Lee, and Taro Aikawa. Muna placed third after scoring a 9-over par 81, while Lee and Aikawa finished fourth and fifth as they recorded 10-over 82 and 11-over par 83, respectively, in the one-day tournament.

Ten other players joined the A Flight with Yong Joo Kim coming in at sixth place with his gross score of 84 and followed by Joey Dela Cruz (85), Takao Urasawa (86), Young Woo Lee (87), Jordan Sundell (97), Peter Tenorio (88), Stephen Carter (88), Luis Tilipao (89), John Reyes (90), and Joseph Cabrera (107).

DEAL

From Page 28

shall be responsible for certifying contractor's progress. NMSA shall not make progress payments to the contractor without MVA's approval," stated in the grant agreement.

The funds that will come from MVA will supplement the more than $900,000 Northern Marianas Housing Corporation earlier made available for the renovation of the track and field facility.

NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios, in a letter to White dated last Thursday, issued the certification of Community Development Block Grant Funds, paving the way for the MVA-NMSA deal.

"This letter will serve as our official certification of available funds for the Oleai track and field facility renovation. NMHC allocated NMSA Program Year 2014 CDBG Funds in the amount of $772,368 and Program Year 2015 CDBG Funds in the amount of $132,744. We hope that this certification letter, as requested by MVA, is sufficient to move forward with the project," Palacios said.

Meanwhile, NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, who is tasked to coordinate with MVA and NMHC for the renovation work, said he will visit the two agencies today to determine the immediate steps they have to take since the grant deal validity is only until February 1, 2017.

"I have to check with MVA's Tatiana Babauta to find out when the funds will be released. I will also go to NMHC today to ask for more information on how we can proceed with the renovation project now that the grant agreement has been signed," Rogolifoi said.

The NMSA official added that if he is not mistaken, NMHC will be the one to put out a bid request for the project and the bidding process, including approval, will take months to complete.

Early this year, an Australian firm and nine local contractors showed interest in the project during the mandatory pre-bid conference at the NMHC office in Garapan. The renovation work must be done by an experienced company as the facility needs to regain its Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The IAAF certification is required for the CNMI to hold regional and international tournaments, such as the Pacific Mini Games, which Saipan will be hosting in 2021.

White, during the NMSA meeting last week, said their priority projects include the completion of the resurfacing work at the track and the extension of the grandstand at the complex as the Pacific Games Council is expected to hold a series of site visits in the next few years. The rest rooms at the complex are also among NMSA's concerns.

With an eye-popping score, US gymnasts put world on notice

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)--The nerves were there. Unmistakable. Unavoidable. Standing in the darkened tunnel before entering Rio Olympic Arena on Sunday night, the U.S. women's gymnastics team felt the pressure that comes not from outside expectations but those held within.

Then the lights came on.

And just like that, the young women in the glittery red-and-blue leotards national team coordinator Martha Karolyi has molded into a global force relaxed.

And dominated.

On bars. On beam. On vault and floor too. Their not-a-typo score of 185.238 was nearly 10 points better than second-place China through four of the five subdivisions, a preposterous gap in a sport where the difference between first and second is measured in fractions.

"It's never 100 percent perfect but I think we showed that our gymnastics is of the highest level," Karolyi said.

One no opponent is close to reaching. If the U.S. had swapped out its highest score on each event with its lowest, it would still be up by six points.

Three-time world champion Simone Biles led the way. Her score of 62.366 was well clear of teammate Aly Raisman. So much for the butterflies in her stomach.

"I do a very good job at hiding it," Biles said. "The team, we just calm it down."

Consider it a luxury of being so far beyond the rest of the planet. All five women earned a spot in either the all-around or event finals, or in the case of Biles and Raisman, both.

Raisman, a three-time Olympic medalist four years ago, grabbed the second spot in the individual all-around for the Americans by edging reigning Olympic champion Gabby Douglas thanks in part to what Raisman called "the best bar routine of my life."

Rules limit each country to two gymnasts per event in the all-around and event finals, meaning even though Douglas was third overall, she'll miss out on a chance to defend the crown she won in London. Not that she was moping. When Raisman drilled her dismount on beam, Douglas rose from her chair and gave her a hug.

A controversial selection to the five-woman team after a so-so performance at Olympic trials, Douglas validated Karolyi's choice with steady performances all over, including a bars set that earned her a spot in the individual finals.

"She said 'I believe in you, and you can go out and do it,'" Douglas said. "At the end of the day that means so much ... because she's very precise. It feels good."

The top eight teams in qualifying move on to Tuesday's team final, where the U.S. is expected to repeat the gold it won easily in London and give it to Karolyi as a retirement present. Karolyi is stepping away after the games, though she's hardly in a hurry to get there. There are still a few more lessons to teach.

AP

United States' Simone Biles performs on the floor during the artistic gymnastics women's qualification at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016.

"My expectations are higher for you than anyone else's," she said. "What I'm trying to do is get the most out of every single person."

No wonder Russian gymnastics star Aliya Mustafina figures everybody is playing for silver.

"It's going to be really difficult to compete against the American team," Mustafina said through a translator after the Russians survived a sometimes shaky qualifying session. "They are unbeatable at the moment."

China and Russia both struggled at times on Sunday, beset by mistakes they can't afford to make if they want to make the team finals anything more than a coronation. While each have their strengths, the truth is the U.S. has few weaknesses. The margin for error will be thinner in the three-up, three-count final. Yet after the U.S. went 16 for 16 during an occasionally showstopping 90 minutes, they hardly seem overburdened by the stakes.

"I think all of our hard work was just to show the world," said Madison Kocian, who put up the top score on uneven bars. "I mean we're 10 points ahead."

Something that's not supposed to happen.

Good luck world. It's up to China, Russia, Great Britain, Brazil, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands to knock the Americans off their throne. How difficult will it be? Consider this: the margin between the U.S. and the Chinese on Sunday was greater than the margin between China and 12th-place Belgium.

Computers, technology help US track and field go for gold

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The seeds for many of the 25, maybe 30, medals the U.S. track team hopes to win in Rio de Janeiro were planted at a training center in California with the help of technology originally designed for golf.

One of the many tools USA Track and Field makes available to its athletes is called "Track Man," a computerized tracking device that sports fans might recognize from watching golf on TV. In addition to golf balls, "Track Man" can trace the trajectory of shot puts and hammers to allow the athletes who throw them keep track of how high and far they go.

"Immediate feedback," says Phil Cheetham, senior sport technologist for the U.S. Olympic Committee, when asked about the greatest benefit of the technology. "Immediate knowledge of results is proven to help you improve technique much more quickly than if you don't have the feedback."

Saddled with restrictive sponsorship rules and less-than-ideal earning potential, athletes have been lashing out for years against organizations such as the USATF for not plowing their profits back into the pockets of the people who put on the show.

Track Man and the program at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California, are examples of how the federations are, indeed, trying to invest in athletes. Some of the investment comes in the form of direct cash into the pockets of the runners and throwers; other comes in training tools like Track Man and similar technologies that help sprinters and jumpers.

"Since I got here, I've improved over four feet," said Joe Kovacs, the 2015 world champion whose first coach was his mother. "It's been a combination of great coaching, awesome facilities and the technology we have."

Most notable among those who don't think USATF does all it can for athletes is 800-meter runner Nick Symmonds, who boycotted world championships last year over a dispute about what runners can wear in a sport where both athletes and institutions depend on shoe and apparel companies for most of their money. Symmonds was injured and didn't qualify for the Olympics, but he's hardly alone.

Djokovic 1 of 3 top seeds eliminated

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Novak Djokovic shook his head and placed his palm over welling eyes on his way to the locker room after a first-round Olympic exit, devastated he might never realize his goal of adding a gold in singles to a substantial collection of Grand Slam titles.

"I mean, no doubt, it's one of the toughest losses in my life, in my career," Djokovic said later, shaking his head and speaking in subdued tones. "Not easy to handle."

The Serb was hardly alone in his disappointment on Day 2 of the Rio de Janeiro Games: He was one of three No. 1 seeds to exit the tennis competition in a wild span of 12 hours.

Djokovic's 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2) setback Sunday night was caused in large part by ferocious forehand after ferocious forehand from a resurgent Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. That surprising result followed losses by the top-seeded duos of Serena and Venus Williams of the United States—who entered their match with a 15-0 Olympic record and three gold medals as a pair—in women's doubles, and Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France in men's doubles.

The second-seeded men's doubles duo of Andy and Jamie Murray departed, too.

"Got to take it on the chin," said Jamie, the older brother of two-time Wimbledon winner Andy, "and move on."

Sunday began with 25 mph winds that delayed the start of play on eight of Rio's nine tennis courts for about 2 hours, and then came so many startling outcomes.

None was more significant than 2009 U.S. Open titlist del Potro's victory over 12-time major champion and No. 1-ranked Djokovic in a thriller before a raucous crowd. The match concluded with both men, who are friends, wiping away tears after a lengthy, warm embrace at the net, during which Djokovic offered what del Potro described as "really kind words."

Del Potro has dealt with three operations to his left wrist that kept him off the Grand Slam circuit for 2 1/2 years, until Wimbledon last month, and even he acknowledged: "I didn't expect to beat Novak tonight."

Djokovic had won seven of their eight most recent meetings, and 11 of 14 overall, before Sunday. But this is the second time that del Potro came out ahead at an Olympics: He beat Djokovic to take the bronze medal in London four years ago.

Representing Serbia means a lot to Djokovic, who led his country to a Davis Cup title and carried its flag at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Games. He did earn a bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but to a guy with so much success, anything other than being the champion is not acceptable.

There is still a shot at gold in doubles in Rio—he and Nenad Zimonjic are into the second round—but as for singles, Djokovic will be 33 by the time Tokyo hosts the 2020 Olympics.

With Djokovic out of the draw, 2012 gold medalist Andy Murray, who is seeded No. 2, becomes the favorite as he bids to become the first player to win consecutive Olympic singles titles. He won his opener in that event Sunday, 6-3, 6-2 against Serbia's Viktor Troicki.

Furyk sets PGA Tour record at Travelers

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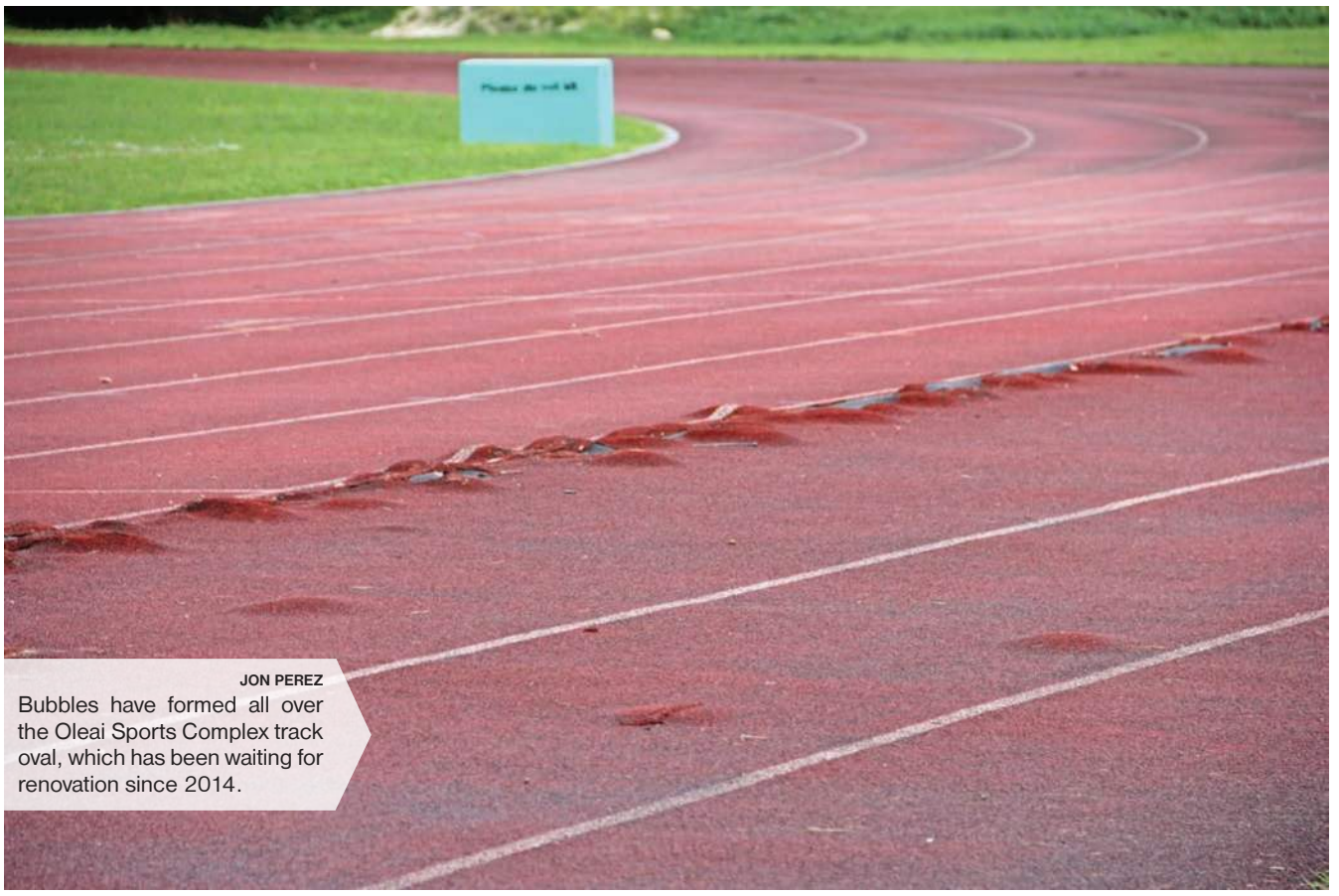
Deal on track resurfacing OK'd



JON PEREZ
Bubbles have formed all over the Oleai Sports Complex track oval, which has been waiting for renovation since 2014.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association and Marianas Visitors Authority signed last week the grant agreement for the resurfacing project at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility.

Under the deal signed by NMSA president Mike White and MVA Board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, MVA will make available $250,000 to NMSA for the renovation of facility, which has been waiting to be repaired for more than two years now as bubbles have already formed all over the eight-lane oval and other areas have also suffered major damage.

"These funds will become available upon NMSA's certification that federal funding for the project has been approved. NMSA

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Phelps gets 19th, US men take 4x100 freestyle gold

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Michael Phelps has earned the 19th gold medal of his career, helping the United States win the 4x100-meter freestyle relay at the Rio Olympics.

Phelps took the second leg after Caeleb Dressel led off for the Americans, and it was another memorable performance at a distance that isn't Phelps' specialty. His split of 47.12 seconds gave the Americans a lead they never relinquished. In fact, it was a faster time than all but the three anchors on the medal-winning teams.

Ryan Held protected the top spot before handing off to Nathan Adrian, the top sprinter in America. It was never really in doubt at that point, as Adrian touched first in 3 minutes, 9.92 seconds. Defending Olympic champion France took the silver in 3:10.53, while Australia rallied for the bronze in 3:11.37.

In the women's division, Katie Ledecky has given the United States its first swimming gold medal of the Rio Olympics with a world record in the women's 400-meter freestyle.

The result was totally expected. Ledecky has dominated the longer freestyle events since winning gold in the 800 free at the London Olympics as a 15-year-old.

She was doing nothing but racing against the clock Sunday night. No problem there.

Ledecky kicked off the first wall with a lead of nearly a body length and steadily pulled away from the overmatched field—as well as the world-record line superimposed on the video screen as her powerful arms churned through the water.

When Ledecky saw the

See PHELPS on Page 26

AP
United States' Michael Phelps competes in the final of the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Sablan wins A Flight in playoff

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Frank D. Sablan gets ready to swing in a playoff game in the A Flight division against Rene Batallones on hole No. 17 of the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort during the 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions last Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank D. Sablan's approach on the playoff hole worked as he defeated Rene Batallones in the tiebreak for first place in the A Flight division of last Sunday's 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

Sablan and Batallones finished the regular 18-hole round with similar scores of 7-over 79 and had to return to the par-4, 326-yard No. 17 hole on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort to determine this year's A Flight champion. Sablan, who had a 2-over par 38 on the front nine and 5-over par 41 on the back went on to win the standoff with a bogey, while Batallones slid to second place after hitting a double bogey. Batallones, who registered a 4-over 40 in the first nine holes, forced the deadlock after carding a 3-over par 39 in the last nine.

Before teeing off, both golfers were asked how they will tackle the deciding hole and Sablan said he had to land his shot to the left, while Batallones wanted to drop his ball to the center. Batallones teed off first and had a long shot at the center, while Sablan had his to the left and several yards behind the former's.

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